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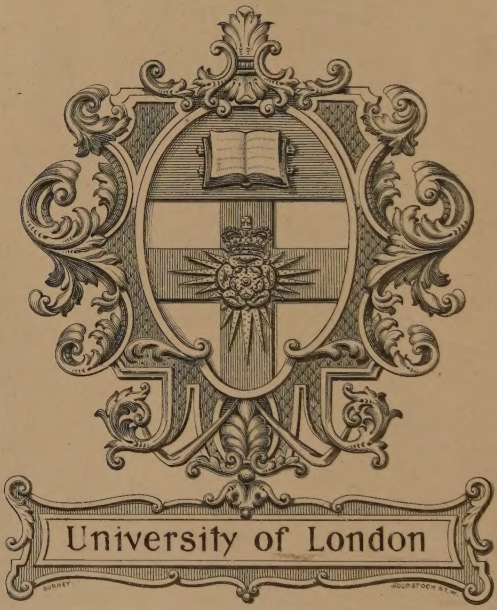
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THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES.

SIXTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

5 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CXLIII.

COMPRISING THE PERIOD FROM THE FIFTEENTH DAY OF MARCH
TO THE THIRTIETH DAY OF MARCH, 1905.

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION.

1905.

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The House met at Two of the Clock.

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Great Northern (Ireland) and Midland Railways Bill.—Ordered, That it be an instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert the following clauses:

The Midland Company shall, within three months after the expiration of each calendar year, prepare and forward to the Board of Trade a return showing with respect to the Londonderry section—

(1) The capital expenditure made by them for the period covered by the return.

(2) The receipts from traffic of all descriptions, the proportionate receipts in respect of over-sea traffic being estimated where actual figures are not ascertained.

(3) The expenses incurred in working the railway, divided under the heads prescribed in Table No 12 of the First Schedule to The Regulation of Railways Act, 1868, general or other charges applicable to the whole of the Midland Company's system being estimated.

(4) A return of working stock as prescribed by Table No. 6 of the said schedule.

(5) A mileage statement as prescribed by Table No. 14 of the said schedule.

(6) A train mileage statement as prescribed by Table No. 15 of the said schedule.

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The first return made under this section shall cover the period of eighteen months ending on the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and six.

The annual returns required from the company under Section 9 of The Regulation Railways Act, 1871, and Section 32 of The Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, shall distinguish separately the statistics relating to the Londonderry section, such figures as are not actually ascertained being estimated by the Midland Company.—(*Mr. Lough.*)

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Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Bill.—"To further amend the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Act, 1843," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Walter Long; to be read a second time upon Monday, 3rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 101] 47

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BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 47

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in order to comply with the Law the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

"At half-past Five of the clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes:

"As soon as the Resolutions so disposed of are reported to the House, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, and the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of any Resolutions proposed in that Committee:

"At Ten of the clock on the 23rd day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolution then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the House doth agree with the Committee in all Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and shall then put a like Question on the Resolution reported with respect to the Supplementary Estimates for the Army, and on the Resolutions reported with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy:

"On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported:

"And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put any Question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill:

"And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee:

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"At Eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates:

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order:

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any sitting at which Government Business has precedence.—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 60

Motion made, and Question put, "That the debate be now adjourned." —(*Mr. Asquith.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 206; Noes, 266. (Division List No. 51.)

Original Question again proposed.

Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 71
Mr. Churchill (*Oldham*) 75

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House declines to sanction any proposal to further arbitrarily curtail discussion of Supplies and of the various stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill as a violation of the constitutional rights of the House."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'in order to' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Claude Lowther (*Cumberland, Eskdale*) 83
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 83
Mr. T. P. O'Connor (*Liverpool, Scotland*) 84
Mr. Wanklyn (*Bradford, Central*) 88
Mr. Bryce (*Aberdeen, S.*) 90
Mr. McKenna (*Monmouthshire, N.*) 95
Sir George Bartley (*Islington, N.*) 97
Mr. John Ellis (*Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 97
Mr. McCrae (*Edinburgh, E.*) 100
Mr. Trevelyan (*Yorkshire, W.R., Elland*) 101
Mr. George White (*Norfolk, N.W.*) 102
Sir Brampton Gurdon (*Norfolk, N.*) 106
Mr. Lloyd-George (*Carnarvon Boroughs*) 106
Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 111

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER proceeded to interrupt the business.

Whereupon Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 249 ; Noes, 213. (Division List No. 52.)

Question put accordingly, "That the words 'in order to' stand part of the Question."

The House divided :—Ayes, 251 ; Noes, 211. (Division List No. 53.)

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence from this Evening's Sitting of Mr. Speaker and of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Whereupon Mr. JEFFREYS, the Deputy-Chairman, took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Order 121

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE (STAMP DUTIES).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That, in lieu of the Stamp Duties which would have been payable upon the deeds or assurances which, in case the Bill had not been passed into an Act, would have been required to pass to and vest in the Society certain property, there be charged a Stamp Duty of five pounds, and such duty shall be impressed upon the copy of the intended Act to be delivered to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Copy of Act to be registered."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Resolution to be reported To-morrow 121

TRANSIT (IRELAND).

Mr. O'Shaughnessy (Limerick, W.) 121
Mr. Mooney (Dublin County, S.) 125

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, excessive Railway rates and defective transit facilities generally constitute a serious bar to the material advancement of Ireland, and should receive immediate attention from the Government with a view to providing a remedy therefor."—(*Mr. O'Shaughnessy.*)

Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 129
Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.) 131

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Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.) 132
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) 133
Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.) 137
Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.) 139
The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) .. 140

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, excessive Railway rates and defective transit facilities generally constitute a serious bar to the material advancement of Ireland, and should receive immediate attention from the Government with a view to providing a remedy therefor.

South Africa (Authority of High Commissioner).—Address for "Return of all instruments showing the nature and extent of the authority for various purposes of the High Commissioner for South Africa over and in respect of the several Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates included in British South Africa."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

Railway Directors and Parliamentary Committees.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny) 144
Sir John Kennaway (Devonshire, Honiton) 145
Mr. Sullivan (Westmeath, S.) 147
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 147
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 148
Captain Ellice (St. Andrews Burghs) 149
Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich) 149
Mr. Malcolm (Suffolk, Stowmarket) 150
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 150
Mr. Bond (Nottingham, E.) 151
Mr. Sydney Buxton 152
Sir Henry Kimber (Wandsworth) 153

And, it being One of the clock, Mr. Deputy-Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at One o'clock a.m.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—

Great Central Railway [H.L.]—(Petition for additional Provision). The same was ordered to lie on the Table 157

Leven's Patent.—Petition of Andrew Mount Haes, praying for leave to introduce a Bill " For rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to Adolph Leven in respect of an invention for improvements in appliances for protection against projectiles " ; together with a copy of the proposed Bill annexed thereto ; read, and referred to the Examiners 157

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.].—A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee 157

Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.].—(Petition for additional Provision). Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next 157

Formby Township Bill [H.L.].—Read 2 (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection. 157

Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [H.L.].—Dearne Valley Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Truro Water Bill [H.L.] ; Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.] ; Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Stanmore be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl of Lauderdale, and that the Lord Stanmore be Chairman of the said Committee. Read, and agreed to .. 157

Private and Provisional Order Confirmation Bills.—Ordered.

That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday the 11th day of May next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next.

That when a Bill shall have passed this House with Amendments these orders shall not apply to any new Bill sent up from the House of Commons which the Chairman of Committees shall report to the House as substantially the same as the Bill so amended.

That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later than Thursday the 11th day of May next, unless such Private Bill shall have been approved by the High Court of Justice ; nor any petition for a Private Bill approved by the High Court of Justice after Tuesday the 16th day of May next.

That this House will not receive any report from the Judges upon petitions presented to this House for Private Bills after Tuesday the 16th day of May next.

Ordered, That the said orders be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall. [No. 29.] 158

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (IMPERIAL YEOMANRY).—Training Return of Imperial Yeomanry, for 1904. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 158

PUBLIC RECORDS (INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT) (ESTATE DUTY OFFICE).—Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents in the Department of the Inland Revenue (Estate Duty Office), which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office 158

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minute, dated 13th March, 1905, granting a retired allowance to Walter James Cox, sorting clerk and telegraphist, Coventry 159

NATIONAL DEBT SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES).—Account of the gross amount of all sums received and paid by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of banks for savings and friendly societies in Great Britain and Ireland, from their commencement at 6th August, 1817, to 20th November, 1904, inclusive.

Account of the several transactions which have taken place, during the year ended 20th November, 1904, in the investment of all moneys which came into the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for savings banks and friendly societies.

Account showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to the trustees of savings banks and friendly societies respectively on 20th November 1904, etc.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 159

Street Betting Bill [H.L.].—Amendment reported (according to order).

Lord Davey 159

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 6, after the word 'garden' to insert the words 'or the sea-beach.'"—(*Lord Davey.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 160
Lord James of Hereford 160
Lord Tweedmouth 161

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 5, to leave out the word 'or,' and in line 6, after the word 'garden,' to insert the words 'or sea-beach.'"—(*Lord Davey.*)

The Earl of Halsbury 162

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord James of Hereford 162

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 12, after the word 'not' to insert the words 'or any vacant ground open to the public, common ground not used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto, or any space under a railway arch.'"—(*Lord James of Hereford.*)

The Earl of Halsbury 163

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

The Earl of Crewe 163

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 1, to insert the following new clause, 'Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to any ground used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto on the days on which races take place.'" —(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

Lord Davey 164
Earl of Crewe 164

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3^{a} on Monday next; and to be printed as amended. (No. 30.)

Military Manœuvres Bill [H.L.]—Amendment reported (according to order).

The Earl of Lichfield 165
The Under Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Donoughmore*) .. 165

Bill to be read 3^{a} To-morrow.

THE CASE OF THE "ANTILLIAN."

Lord Muskerry 165
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 168

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, 16TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY [STAMP DUTIES].

Resolution reported—

"That, in lieu of the Stamp Duties which would have been payable upon the deeds or assurances which, in case the Bill had not been passed into an Act, would have been required to pass to and vest in the Society certain

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property, there be charged a Stamp Duty of five pounds, and such Duty shall be impressed upon the copy of the intended Act to be delivered to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is ‘ Copy of Act to be registered.’ ”

Resolution agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill that they have power to make provisions therein pursuant to the said Resolution.—(*Mr. Caldwell*) 169

Private Bills (Group B).—Ordered, That Vivian B. Lewes do attend the Committee on Group B of Private Bills To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock 169

Selection (Standing Committees.)—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection ; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures ; Mr. Grant Lawson ; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Hare.

Report to lie upon the Table 170

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed] ; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow 170

Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill ; Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill ; Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill. Reported, with Amendments ; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 170

Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table 170

Railway Bills (Group No. 1).—Sir Henry Kimber reported from the Committee on Group No. 1 of Railway Bills ; That Mr. Donal Sullivan, one of the members of the said Committee, was not present during the Sitting of the Committee this day.

Ordered, That Mr. Donal Sullivan do attend the Committee on Tuesday, the 28th March, at Eleven of the clock 170

Railway Bills (Group No. 1).—Sir Henry Kimber reported from the Committee on Group No. 1 of Railway Bills ; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday, the 28th March, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 170

PETITIONS.

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Petition from Gloucester, against ; to lie upon the Table 171

Rating of Machinery Bill.—Petition from Sunderland, against ; to lie upon the Table 171

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SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SUNDAY) BILL.—Petition from Grimsby, in favour; to lie upon the Table 171

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition from East Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 171

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MILITARY WORKS ACTS, 1897, 1899, 1901 AND 1903.—Account presented, for the period ended 31st March, 1904, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 84] 171

NATIONAL DEBT (SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES).—Annual Account presented, for the period ended 20th November, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 85] 171

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES).—Annual Account presented, for the year 1903–4, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 86] 171

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COLONEL WILLIAMS' ESTATE (KING'S COUNTY)—Question, Mr. Reddy (King's County, Birr); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 172

MOSQUITO-PROOF SLEEPING ROOMS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN WEST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 172

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple); Answer, Mr Lyttelton) 172

CHINESE AND WHITE LABOUR IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 172

CIVIL SERVICE RETIREMENT RULES.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.); Answer Mr. Victor Cavendish 173

PAY OF OFFICERS OF IRISH AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 174

MEMORIAL OF ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT CLERKS.—Question, Mr. Thornton (Clapham); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 174

TOWNS SOLD UNDER THE IRISH LAND ACT, 1903.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Atkinson 174

ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—STATUTORY RETIREMENT RULES FOR DISTRICT AND COUNTY INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Atkinson 175

IMPORTATION OF DOGS.—Question, Mr. Seymour Ormsby-Gore (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 176

PROVISION OF WORKING CLASS DWELLINGS IN RURAL DISTRICTS.—Question Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour .. 176

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Naval Shooting—Admiral Percy Scott's Inventions.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 177

Rules under the Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900.—Queston, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 177

Sugar Convention and Golden Syrup.—Question, Mr. Harmood-Banner (Liverpool, Everton); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 178

Annual Leave in Exeter Post Office.—Question, Mr. Soares; Answer, Lord Stanley 179

Postal Service at Gastrigan, North Tipperary.—Question, Mr. P. J. O'Brien (Tipperary, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 179

Accdents to Railway Servants.—Question, Mr. John Ellis; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 180

Barking Sewer Outfall—Compulsory Acquirement of Land by the London County Council.—Question, Mr. Louis Sinclair (Essex, Romford); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 180

Adulteration of Wines.—Question, Mr. Alban Gibbs (London); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 181

Mr. Dane's Mission to Cabul.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer. Mr. Brodrick 182

Coopers Hill School of Forestry.—Question, Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 182

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Aged Pensioners Bill.—" To provide Pensions for the Aged Deserving Poor," presented by Mr. Goulding; supported by Mr. Remnant, Mr. Griffith Boscawen, Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Forde Ridley, and Mr. Bull; to be read a second time upon Friday, April 14th, and to be printed. [Bill 102.] .. 216

Home Industries Bill.—" To provide for the better Regulation of Home Industries," presented by Colonel Denny; supported by Mr. John Burns, Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. Emmott, Mr. Fenwick, Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart, and Mr. John William Wilson; to be read a second time upon Thursday, April 13th, and to be printed. [Bill 103.] 216

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.)

Motion made, and Question put, " That the proceedings on the adjourned debate on the Motion relative to Business of the House (Supply, etc.), do have preference over the Business of Supply this day."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 271 ; Noes, 186. (Division List No. 54.) .. 216

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).

Motion made, and Question put, " That the proceedings on the adjourned debate on the Motion relative to Business of the House (Supply, etc.) if under consideration at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under Standing Order (Sittings of the House), and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 275 ; Noes, 189. (Division List No. 55.) .. 219

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [15th March],

" That, in order to comply with the Law, the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned :—

" At half-past Five of the Clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes.

" As soon as the Resolutions so disposed of are reported to the House, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, and the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of any Resolutions proposed in that Committee.

"At Ten of the clock on the 23rd day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolution then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the House doth agree with the Committee in all Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and shall then put a like Question on the Resolution reported with respect to the Supplementary Estimates for the Army, and on the Resolutions reported with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy.

"On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported.

"And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put any question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill.

"And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed if, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:—

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

"At Eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any sitting at which Government Business has precedence."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question again proposed.

Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 227
Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 229

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Amendment proposed—

"In lines 1 and 2, to leave out the words 'comply with the Law,' and insert the words 'expedite business.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) .. 232
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) .. 234
Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.) .. 236
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) .. 238
Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) .. 239
Mr. Lloyd George (Carnarvon Boroughs) .. 240
The Attorney-General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) .. 241
Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) .. 242
Mr. Churchill (Oldham) .. 243
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) .. 244
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 245
Mr. Whitley (Halifax) .. 245

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 242 ; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 56).

Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) .. 249

Amendment proposed—

"In line 2, to leave out the word 'any,' in order to insert the word 'the,'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'any' stand part of the Question."

Sir Robert Finlay .. 251
Mr. Whitley .. 252
Mr. O'Mara (Kilkenny, S.) .. 252
Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) .. 252
Mr. Churchill .. 253

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 236 ; Noes, 181. (Division List No. 57.)

Mr. Churchill .. 257

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to leave out the words 'and Vote 1.'"—(*Mr. Churchill.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and Vote 1' stand part of the Question."

Mr. Dalziel .. 258
Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 258

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Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 251; Noes, 178. (Division List No. 58.)

Mr. Whitley 263

Amendment proposed—

"In line 5, to leave out from the word 'of,' to the end of the Question, in order to insert the words 'not be interrupted under any Standing Order of the House.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words to the word 'Five,' in line 6, stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 263
Mr. George Whiteley (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) 264
Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross) 265
Mr. Churchill 265
Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury) 267

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 271; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 59.)

Mr. Whitley 271

Amendment proposed—

"In line 6, to leave out the word 'Five,' in order to insert the word 'Seven.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Five' stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 271
Mr. Whitley 272
Mr. Churchill 272
Mr. John O'Connor (Kildare, N.) 273
Mr. A. J. Balfour 274
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 275

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned until this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill (BY ORDER)—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Captain Jessel (St. Pancras, S.) 276

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

Captain Jessel 278
Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.) 279

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Motion made, and Question proposed, " That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Clause 22, Part V."—(*Captain Jessel.*)

Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 280
Mr. Cohen (*Islington, E.*) 282
Mr. Benn (*Devonport*) 282
Major Evans Gordon (*Tower Hamlets, Stepney*) 284
Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 286
Mr. Hunt (*Shropshire, Ludlow*) 288

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 183 ; Noes, 177. (Division List No. 60.)

Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 291
Sir Henry Kimber (*Wandsworth*) 292

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to substitute, in Part VI. of the Bill, the medical officer of a borough council for the medical officer of the County Council."—(*Mr. Claude Hay.*)

Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 292
Mr. John Burns 293
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (*Westminster*) 293

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 193 ; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 61.)

Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 299

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Part XV."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

Mr. John Burns 299
Sir Henry Kimber 300
Mr. Benn 300
Major Evans Gordon 300

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 62.)

Sir Edward Strachey 303

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Clause 34."—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

Mr. Claude Hay 305
Mr. John Burns 305
Colonel Williams (*Dorsetshire, W.*) 306
Mr. Disraeli (*Cheshire, Altrincham*) 306
Mr. Llewellyn (*Somersetshire, N.*) 306

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Clause 34.—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill, in Clause 35, Sub-clause (4), line 18, after the word ' man,' to insert the words ' provided that such a condition is due to the wilful neglect of.' "—(*Mr. Gardner.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill, in Clause 35, Sub-clause 4, line 18, after the word " man," to insert the words " provided that such a condition is due to the wilful neglect of."—(*Mr. Gardner.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [16th March] to Question [15th March], " That, in order to comply with the Law, the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned :—

" At half-past Five of the clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes.

" As soon as the Resolutions so disposed of are reported to the House, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, and the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of any Resolutions proposed in that Committee.

" At Ten of the clock on the 23rd day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolution then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the House doth agree with the Committee in all Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and shall then put a like Question on the Resolution reported with respect to the Supplementary Estimates for the Army, and on the Resolutions reported with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy.

" On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported.

" And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put any Question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill ; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill.

"And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

"At eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Which Amendment was—

"In line 6, to leave out the word 'Five,' and insert the word 'Seven.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'Five' stand part of the Question."

Question put, and agreed to.

Major Seely 309

Amendment proposed—

"In line 32, to leave out lines 32 to 44, inclusive."—(*Major Seely.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the words 'Vote 1,' in line 33, stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. Balfour 310
Mr. Asquith 310
Mr. Churchill 312

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question amended, in line 33, by leaving out "1" and inserting "7"; in line 40, by leaving out "1" and inserting "7"; and in line 44, by leaving out "1" and inserting "7."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Main Question put, as amended.

The House divided :—Ayes, 208 ; Noes, 129. (Division List No. 63.)

Ordered, That, in order to comply with the Law, the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned :

At half-past Five of the clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes.

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On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported.

And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put any Question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill ; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill.

And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 7 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner :

At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 7 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

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At Eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 7 of the Army Estimates.

Until the business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence.

SMALL ARMS DEPARTMENT (ENFIELD AND SPARKBROOK).

Address for Return showing :—

"(1) The average number of persons employed at the Small Arms Department at Enfield, and the Manufacturing Department at Sparkbrook, respectively, for each of the last ten years, 1895 to 1904, inclusive, showing, separately, the number of the administrative and clerical staff and of the artisans and labourers.

"(2) The rate of wages paid to the principal classes of workmen at the two Departments above-named, respectively.

"(3) The rates of sick pay, pension allowance, or bonus, at the two Departments, respectively, if they differ in any way.

"(4) The price of coal at the two factories respectively, giving, if possible, the average price per ton per annum for the same quality for the last five years.

"(5) The number of small arms, whether rifles or pistols, of any kind turned out in each year by the two factories respectively.

"(6) The amount expended during the years 1902–3 and 1903–4 at Sparkbrook, in the Manufacturing Department, on new buildings, machinery, engines, and boilers.

"(7) The same for the Small Arms Department at Enfield.

"(8) The cost of the same class of rifle made during the last ten years at Enfield and Sparkbrook, respectively.

"(9) The amount of fixed charges, including rent, rates and taxes, contributions to, or provision for, religious worship and secular instruction, depreciation on buildings and machinery, interest on capital, etc., debited to the Small Arms Department at Enfield and to the Manufacturing Department at Sparkwood, respectively, for each of the last five years."—(*Mr. J. Chamberlain.*)

Mr. Whitley 319

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.—Copy ordered, "of Statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to depositors in Post Office Savings Banks on the 31st day of December, 1903, and the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt to meet those liabilities at that date."—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish*) 319

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AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896 (GRANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES).—Return ordered, "showing the amount payable to each of the local authorities in England and Wales who receive a share of the Annual Grant under the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury (*Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington*) 320
Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 320
Mr. John Redmond (*Waterford*) 320

Adjourned at twenty minutes before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, FRIDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

City of London Electric Lighting Company Bill [H.L.]; East London and Lower Thames Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee to consolidate the Bills into one Bill 321

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM.—Report by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, for the year 1904 321

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—General Reports for the year 1904, by the Chief Inspectors of the Western Division of Scotland; the Southern Division of Scotland 321

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh language, Vol. I., Part III., and Vol. II., Part III. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 321

NEW BILL.

Workmen's Compensation Bill (H.L.).—A Bill to amend and extend the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900. Was presented by the Lord Belper; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Tuesday the 4th of April next. (No. 31) 321

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS, 1897 AND 1900.—Paper showing how the said Acts will read as amended by the Workmen's Compensation Bill [H.L.] (presented to the House this day). Ordered to be laid before the House. —(*The Lord Belper*) 322

DECK LOADS ON BRITISH SHIPS.

Lord Muskerry 322
The Marquess of Ripon 324
The President of the Board of Trade (*The Marquess of Salisbury*) 324

Military Manœuvres Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order). An Amendment made. Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 17TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 327

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 327

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP B.).—Ordered, That Vivian B. Lewes do attend the Committee on Group B. of Private Bills on Monday next, at Eleven of the clock 327

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP D.).—Captain JESSEL reported from the Committee on Group D of Private Bills, That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 328

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A.).—Mr. AGG-GARDNER reported from the Committee on Group A. of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 328

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES EMPLOYMENT BILL.—Petition of the Mining Association of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table 328

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition from Liverpool, in favour; to lie upon the Table 328

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Copy presented, of Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language. Vol. I., Part III., and Vol. II., Part III. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 328

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM.—Copy presented, of Report by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 328

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).—Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 329

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Education (Scotland) (General Reports).—Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Southern Division of Scotland for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 329

Sanitary Inspectors and Inspectors of Workshops.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 15th February; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 87] 329

Africa (No. 2, 1905).—Copy presented, of Report on the possibilities of Cotton Growing in the East Africa Protectorate for 1904 (in continuation of No. 606, Miscellaneous Series) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 329

Post Office Savings Banks.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th March; *Mr. Victor Cavendish*]; to lie upon the Table 329

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Unsatisfactory Small Arms Ammunition.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 329

Missing Mules.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster .. 330

South African War Stores.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 330

Irish Language in the Post Office.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Lord Stanley 331

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Post Office and Distribution of Money Lenders' Circulars.—Question, Mr. Marshall Hall (Lancashire, Southport); Answer, Lord Stanley 331

Irish Schools Teaching Irish French and Latin.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 332

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Army Estimates.—Vote 1.—Question, Mr. Seely (Lincoln); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 333

Erection of Pier in Sharfleet Creek—Damage to Oyster Fishery.—Question, Sir Joseph Dimsdale (London); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster .. 333

Jam Contracts for South Africa.—Question, Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield); Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 334

Transvaal War Contribution Loan.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 335

Revenue and Expenditure of Transvaal and Orange River Colony.—Question, Mr. Buchanan; Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 335

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Coal Mines Employment Bill—[SECOND READING.]—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Jacoby (*Derbyshire, Mid*) 336
Mr. T. Richards (*Monmouthshire, W.*) 339

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Harris (*Tynemouth*) 346
Colonel Blundell (*Lancashire, Ince*) 351

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Harris.*)

Question proposed—"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 353
Mr. Johnson (*Gateshead*) 360
Sir John Gorst (*Cambridge University*) 365
Mr. Fenwick (*Northumberland, Wansbeck*) 367
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 371
Mr. Joseph Walton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley*).. 378
The Under Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.*) 387
Sir James Joicey (*Durham, Chester-le-Street*) 387

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190 ; Noes, 132. (Division List No. 64)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House for Friday next.

NEW BILLS.

TRUST INVESTMENT.—Bill to amend the Law as to the investment of Trust Funds in municipal and other similar securities, and as to the investment of any money which local authorities are authorised or required to invest, ordered to be brought in by Sir Albert Rollit and Sir James Woodhouse.

Trust Investment Bill.—"To amend the Law as to the investment of Trust Funds in municipal and other similar securities, and as to the investment of any money which local authorities are authorised or required to invest," presented, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 104.] 393

COMPULSORY VACCINATION.—Bill to abolish Compulsory Vaccination, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Sir John Rolleston. Mr. Channing, Mr. Corrie Grant, and Mr. Levy.

Compulsory Vaccination Bill.—"To abolish Compulsory Vaccination," presented, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 105.] 394

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VACCINATION (No. 2).—Bill to amend the Vaccination Laws, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Sir John Rolleston, Mr. Channing, Mr. Corrie Grant, and Mr. Levy.

Vaccination (No. 2) Bill.—"To amend the Vaccination Laws," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 106.] 394

DOGS (PROTECTION). Bill for the prohibition of Experiments upon Dogs, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ellis Griffith, Colonel Lockwood, Colonel Sandys, Mr. Channing, Mr. Field, Mr. Tomkinson, and Mr. Weir.

Dogs (Protection) Bill.—"For the prohibition of Experiments upon Dogs," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 107.] 395

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—On the Motion for the adjournment of the House.

Mr. John Ellis (*Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 395

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury Sir A. Acland-Hood (*Somersetshire, Wellington*) 396

Adjourned at fourteen minutes before Six o'clock, till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1905.

TOOK THE OATH.—The Earl of Darnley took the oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—
Leven's Patent—(Petition for Bill).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 397

McConnell's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Witnesses ordered to attend on Tuesday, the 28th instant 397

Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 397

South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.].—The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 7th instant discharged, and Bill committed 397

Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [H.L.]; Dearne Valley Railway Bill [H.L.]; Truro Water Bill [H.L.]; Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Hay (*E. Kinnoul*) be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Beauchamp; read, and agreed to .. 397

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners .. 397

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—General report by the Chief-Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland, for the year 1904 .. 398

NAVY (NEW SCHEME OF NAVAL TRAINING). SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION AS NAVAL CADETS.—Further reports of members of the Interview Committee .. 398

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Return for the month of January, 1905. .. 398

AFRICA (No. 2), 1905.—Report on the possibilities of cotton-growing in the East Africa Protectorate for 1904 (in continuation of No. 606, "Miscellaneous Series").

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 398

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS, 1897 AND 1900.—Paper respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of Friday last), and to be printed. (No. 32.) .. 398

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—Bill (on Motion) (by leave of the House) withdrawn .. 398

Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next .. 398

TRAINING COLLEGES IN SCOTLAND.

- *Lord Balfour of Burleigh* .. 398
- *Lord Reay* .. 405
- *The Secretary for Scotland* (*The Marquess of Linlithgow*) .. 407
- *The Earl of Camperdown* .. 411
- *The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury* .. 413
- *Lord Tweedmouth* .. 415
- *The Lord President of the Council and President of the Board of Education* (*The Marquess of Londonderry*) .. 416
- *The Marquess of Ripon* .. 419

Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [H.L.]—[SECOND READING].—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Secretary for Scotland (*The Marquess of Linlithgow*) .. 420

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^a."—(*The Marquess of Linlithgow.*)

On Question, Bill read 2^a and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

House adjourned at a quarter before Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 20TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

RIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 67 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 67 has been complied with, viz:—Cork Junction Railways Bill 421

RIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 66 NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 66 has not been complied with, viz.:—Cork Junction Railways Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 421

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Leven's Patent Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.. 421

Dublin United Tramways Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed. 421

Swansea Corporation Bill.—Ordered that the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee on the Swansea Improvements and Tramways Bill in Session 1897 be referred to the Committee on the Swansea Corporation Bill. —(*Mr. Caldwell.*) 421

Accrington Corporation Bill.—Morley Corporation Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.—Petition from Leeds, in favour; to lie upon the Table 422

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Aysrhire, in favour; to lie upon the Table 422

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.—Return [presented 17th March] to be printed. [No. 88.] 422

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) GENERAL REPORTS.—Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 422

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Irish Land Commission (Proceedings).—Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the month of January, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 422

Navy (Victualling Yard Manufacturing Accounts, 1903–4).—Annual Accounts presented, of the Cost of Manufacturing, Provisions, Victualling Stores, etc., at the Home Victualling Yards and Malta Yard for 1903–4, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 89.] 422

Navy (New Scheme of Training).—Copy presented, of Further Reports of Members of the Interview Committees on the selection of Candidates for nomination as Naval Cadets [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 422

Irish Land Act, 1903 (Irish Land Commission Estates Commissioners).—Copy ordered, " of instructions issued by the Commissioners for the guidance of inspectors."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 90.] 423

East India (Employment of Troops out of India).—Address for " Return comprising the particulars, as follows:—

(1) What number of British Troops, and of what arms, were taken from the Indian Garrison in September and October, 1899, and sent on service in South Africa.

(2) How many subsequently, and what number were there at the close of the war.

(3) How many and what classes of Troops were sent from India to China to assist in putting down the Boxer rising, rescuing members of the European Legations, and recovering their buildings at Pekin.

(4) The numbers of British and Indian Troops detached from the Indian Garrison for service in Somaliland and East Africa.

(5) What was the amount saved to the Military Expenditure of the Indian Government by the loan of these Troops and the Indian Commissariat Services for purposes of the Home Government in the several years of those transfers; also in the aggregate."—(*Sir Walter Foster.*) 423

Small Arms Factories (Manufactures).—Address for " Return showing—

The number of Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured at the Royal Small Arms Factories at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively, with the cost per rifle at each Factory for the years 1890–1 and onward to the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903, inclusive. Also the number of Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured at the Birmingham and London Small Arms Factories respectively, with the contract price of same at each Factory for the years 1890 and onward to the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903, inclusive.

The total numbers made at each of the four Factories for the years named respectively, and the average cost at each Factory per rifle.

The number of sword bayonets for the Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured at the Royal Small Arms Factories at Enfield and Sparkbrook during the same period, with the number and cost per sword bayonet for each year respectively, and the orders on hand and unfinished at the present time.

The number of sword bayonets for the Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured by private contract for the same period, showing cost per sword bayonet for each year respectively, and orders in hand undelivered at the present time.

The number of machine guns made at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively for the years 1899 to 1904, showing type and cost per gun for each year, and the number of guns on order and unfinished at each Factory at the present time.

The number of machine guns made by private contract during the years 1889 onwards to 1904 respectively, showing type and cost per gun for each year, with the numbers of guns on order and undelivered at the present time.

The number of pistols manufactured at Enfield between the years 1880 upwards to 1904 inclusive, showing type and cost per pistol for each year respectively.

The number of pistols manufactured by private contract for the years 1880 upwards to 1904 inclusive, showing type and cost per pistol for each year respectively.

The total amount of money expended on plant for the manufacture of pistols at Enfield.

The additions to building and plant at Enfield since the year 1883 up to the present time, and the cost for each year respectively.

The estimated cost of the electrical power now being installed.

The number of men employed in the machine gun department at Enfield for the years 1889 upward to 1904 respectively, and the number employed at the present time. The total amount paid in wages for each year respectively, and the amount paid in wages for the eleven months ending February, 1905.

The number of men employed at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively, for the years 1888 upwards to 1904, and the total amount paid in wages for each year during the same period at each factory.

The number at present employed at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively.

The number of machines at present standing idle at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively, and the number of machines partially employed at each factory.

What is the normal capacity for output at each of the two factories, and what would be the capacity for output of Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively if the men were employed on three eight-hour shifts in each twenty-four hours, including Sundays.

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The cost of building and plant of the Royal Small Arms Factory now being built in India, and the estimated capacity for output in normal and three eight-hour shifts each twenty-four hours, including Sundays."—(*Mr. Abel Smith.*) 423

Army (Pensions).—Address for "Return of—

(1) The number of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men who retired from the Army on pension (time expired only) in each of the following years: 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903.

(2) The average number of years of service (a) of Officers retiring on pension, (b) of Non-Commissioned Officers and Men retiring on pension in each of the above years.

(3) The total amount of cash paid to the above time-expired pensioners namely (a) to Officers, (b) to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, in each of the above years.

(4) The total number of pensioners deceased in each of the above years (a) Officers, (b) Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.

(5) The average ages at death (a) of Officers, (b) of Non-Commissioned Officers and Men in each of the above years.

(6) The total cash amount disbursed in pensions, during the tenure of the pension, to each deceased pensioner in each of the above years (a) to Officers, (b) to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men."—(*Captain Norton*) .. 425

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Cautwell Estate, County Dublin.—Question, Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 471

Butler Estate, County Dublin.—Question, Mr. Clancy; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 471

Butson Estate, County Galway.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 471

Strokestown District Inspector of Police.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 472

Irish Civil Service—"Junior Clerks."—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 473

Newport District (Mayo) Police Surgeon—Question, Dr. Ambrose (Mayo, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 473

School Teachers' Pay—Newry Memorial.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 474

HOWTH HARBOUR DREDGING OPERATIONS.—Question, Mr. Clancy; Answer, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.) 475

DUBLIN PORT AND DOCKS—DOCKMASTERSHIP.—Question, Mr. James O'Connor (Wicklow, W.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 475

BALLINA POST OFFICE STAFF.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Lord Stanley 476

HIGHER EDUCATION IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Clancy, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.), and Mr. John Redmond; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 476

FISCAL REFORM—INDIA AND THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 478

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled "An Act to amend The Military Manœuvres Act, 1897." [Military Manœuvres Bill [Lords] 478

NEW BILLS.

Leaseholders (Purchase of Fee Simple) Bill.—"To give facilities to Leaseholders for the purchase of the Fee Simple of their holdings," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Channing, Mr. Whiteley, Mr. Field, Mr. M'Arthur, and Mr. Benn; to be read a second time upon Monday, 5th June, and to be printed. [Bill 108] 478

Allotments (London) Bill.—"To facilitate the provisions of Allotments by the London County Council," presented by Mr. Benn; supported by Mr. John Burns, Mr. Crooks, Dr. Macnamara, and Mr. Lough; to be read a second time upon Monday next and to be printed. [Bill 109] 479

SUPPLY [2ND ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1905-6 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £21,500,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, viz.:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS III.

Ireland :—	
Land Commission	70,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England:—	
Colonial Office	25,000
Local Government Board	86,000

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CLASS I.

	£
Royal Palaces	26,000
Osborne	7,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	43,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings	25,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	33,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	15,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	54,000
Revenue Buildings	200,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain	180,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	90,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	8,000
Peterhead Harbour	10,000
Rates on Government Property	260,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	110,000
Railways, Ireland	35,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—

House of Lords Offices	7,000
House of Commons Offices	15,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments	40,000
Home Office	66,000
Foreign Office	25,000
Privy Council Office, etc.	3,000
Board of Trade	85,000
Mercantile Marine Services	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	3
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries	55,000
Charity Commission	15,000
Civil Service Commission	17,000
Exchequer and Audit Department	25,000
Friendly Societies Registry	3,000
Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	5
National Debt Office	6,000
Public Record Office	10,000
Public Works Loan Commission	5
Registrar-General's Office	17,000
Stationery and Printing	330,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	30,000
Secret Service	40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland, Office of	25,000
Fishery Board	5,000
Lunacy Commission	3,000
Registrar-General's Office	2,000
Local Government Board	5,000

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Ireland :—

	£
Lord-Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary for Ireland	12,000
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	80,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office	1,000
Local Government Board	27,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	17,000
Registrar-General's Office	5,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey	6,000

CLASS III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	28,000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	18,000
County Courts	2,000
Police, England and Wales	13,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	350,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	130,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	12,000

Scotland :—

Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters Commission, Scotland	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	37,000

Ireland :—

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	32,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	43,000
County Courts Officers, etc.	45,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	60,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons, Ireland	54,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,000
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500

CLASS IV.

United Kingdom and England :—

Board of Education	7,000,000
British Museum	70,000
National Gallery	10,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	3,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	24,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	60,000

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Scotland :—

	£
Public Education	770,000
National Gallery	5,000

Ireland :—

Public Education	760,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	2,500
Queen's Colleges	2,500

CLASS V.

Diplomatic and Consular Services	250,000
Colonial Services	595,000
Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	35,000
Cyprus (Grant in Aid)	15,000

CLASS VI.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	300,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	1,500
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	—

CLASS VII.

Temporary Commissions	20,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	14,587
Repayments to the Local Loans Fund	—
Ireland Development Grant	100,000
Visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India	—
Total for Civil Services	£14,070,000

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	250,000
Post Office Telegraphs	2,200,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£7,430,000

Grand Total £21,500,000."

Mr. *Blake* (*Longford, S.*) .. 483

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Motion made and Question put, "That Item, Class 3, Vote 16 (Irish Land Commission), be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Blake.*)

Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) 492
Mr. Lonsdale (*Armagh, Mid.*) 501
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 503
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 509
Mr Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) 514
Mr. Hayden (*Roscommon, N.*) 517
Mr Charles Craig (*Antrim, S.*) 522
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 526
Mr. Wood (*Down, E.*) 527
Mr. Haviland Burke (*King's County, Tullamore*) 528
Mr. John Campbell (*Armagh, S.*) 531

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 150 ; Noes, 224. (Division List No. 65.)

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

Woolwich Borough Council Bill.—[By Order.].—Read a second time, and committed 537

Supply [2nd Allotted Day].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

Civil Services and Revenue Departments Estimates, 1905–6 (Vote on Account).—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £21,500,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, viz. :—

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Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,000
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Total for Revenue Departments	£7,430,000
Grand Total	£21,500,000

Mr. Schwann (*Manchester, N.*) 541
Mr. Kearley (*Devonport*) 544
Mr. McCrae (*Edinburgh, E.* 545

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Motion made, and Question proposed, " That Item, Class 2, Vote 6 (Colonial Office), be reduced by £100." (*Mr. McCrae.*)

Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 547
Mr. Buchanan (*Perthshire, E.*) 550
Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 552
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington*) 554
Sir M. Hicks Beach (*Bristol, W.*) 565
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 570
Mr. Lyttelton 571
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 573
Mr. Ainsworth (*Argyllshire*) 574

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman proceeded, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 15, to put forthwith the Question necessary to dispose of the Vote.

Question put, " That Item, Class 2 Vote 6 (Colonial Office), be reduced by £100.'

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 143 ; Noes, 206. (Division List No. 66.)

Original Question put—

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 200 ; Noes, 138. (Division List No. 67.)

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Wednesday ; Committee to sit again tomorrow.

TRADE MARKS BILL.—Read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee. 581

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Committee of Public Accounts do consist of Fifteen Members."

The Committee was accordingly nominated of, Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Blake, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Victor Cavendish, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Goddard, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir Arthur Hayter, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Sir Robert Mowbray, Mr. Pym, and Mr. Yerburgh

That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.

" That Five be the quorum."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Dr. Macnamara 582
Sir A. Acland-Hood 581

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Committee of Public Accounts do consist of Fifteen Members.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of—Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Blake, Mr. Gibson-Bowles, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Victor Cavendish, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Goddard, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir Arthur Hayter, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Sir Robert Mowbray, Mr. Pym, and Mr. Yerburgh.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

NEW BILLS.

Nurses and Private Nursing Homes (Registration).—Bill to provide for the better training and registration of Nurses and for the voluntary registration of Private Nursing Homes, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Claude Hay, Sir Arthur Bignold, and Mr. H. D. Green

Nurses and Private Nursing Homes (Registration) Bill.—" To provide for the better training and registration of Nurses, and for the voluntary registration of Private Nursing Homes," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 110] 583

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Mr. John Ellis (*Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe*) 583
Mr. Soares (*Devonshire, Barnstaple*) 583

Somaliland.—Question, Colonel Legge (St. Georges, Hanover Square); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 584

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 21st MARCH, 1905.

Sat First.—The Earl of Devon sat first in Parliament after the death of his grandfather 585

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Donovan's Divorce Bill [h.l.].—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Alice Edith Donovan, the wife of Daniel Augustine Donovan, with the said Daniel Augustine Donovan, and to enable her to marry again, and for other purposes. Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in, and of the Decree of Divorce of, the King's Bench Division (Matrimonial) of the High Court of Justice in Ireland, delivered (on oath); Bill read 1ª. 585

Donovan's Divorce Bill [h.l.].—Petition of Alice Edith Donovan praying that a duly attested copy of the Bill may be transmitted by registered letter to Messrs. Lawrence Jones and Company, of Cape Coast Castle, Solicitors, and that the attendance of a representative of the said Messrs. Lawrence Jones and

Company before this House to prove personal service of the copy of the Bill, notice of Second Reading, and of the usual orders of this House on the said Daniel Augustine Donovan may be dispensed with, and that an affidavit of a representative of the said Messrs. Lawrence Jones and Company, carrying on business at Cape Coast Castle, of such personal service sworn before a District Commissioner of the Gold Coast may be deemed to be good and sufficient proof of such service. Presented, and ordered to be taken into consideration on Friday next 585

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with—
Malvern Water. The same was ordered to lie on the Table 585

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.—Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for additional provision in the Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.]. ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional provision 586
Read, and agreed to.

Llandrindod Wells Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 586

Dearne Valley Railway Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 6th and 7th instant, discharged, and Bill committed 586

Marylebone Chapels Bill [H.L.]; Tralee Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan District Railway Bill [H.L.]; Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.]; Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill. Reported, with Amendments 586

Entre Rios Railways Bill [H.L.]; Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.]. Reported, without Amendment 586

Clyde Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.]; Nine Mile Point Railway Bill [H.L.]; Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Rhymney Railway Bill [H.L.]; Leeds and Liverpool Canal Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Drogheda be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Monson; read, and agreed to .. 586

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—To be printed. (No. 33.) 586

PETITIONS.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.].—Petition in favour of; of Bradford Trades Unionists; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 586

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RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—No. 3329. Servia: Presented (by command and ordered to lie on the Table.

Newcastle Chapter (Amendment) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Prevention of Corruption Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order).

[The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.]

Clause 1.

Lord James of Hereford 587

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 11, after the word 'Act' to insert the paragraphs—

'(4) In any prosecution under this Act evidence shall not be admissible to show that any such gift or consideration as is mentioned in this section is customary in any trade or calling.

'(5) For the purposes of this Act where it is shown that any such gift or consideration as in this section mentioned has been taken, given, or offered without the assent of the principal, the burden of proving that such gift or consideration was not taken, given, or offered corruptly shall lie on the accused.'"—(*Lord James of Hereford.*)

The Lord Chancellor (*The Earl of Halsbury*) 588
Lord Avebury 591
Lord James of Hereford 592
The Earl of Halsbury 592

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:—

Lord James of Hereford 593

Amendment moved—

"To leave out sub-section (1) of Clause 2."—(*Lord James of Hereford.*)

Lord Avebury 594
The Earl of Halsbury 595
Lord Davy 596
Lord James of Hereford 597

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4 :—

Lord Muskerry 597

Clause 4 agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

arried Women's Property Act (1882) Amendment Bill [h.l.]; Prize Courts Bill [h.l.]; Naval Prize Bill [h.l.].—House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment; and re-committed to the Standing Committee 599

he Case of the S.S. "Baron Innerdale."

Lord Muskerry 599
The Under-Secretary of State for India (*The Marquess of Bath*) 599

he Navy and the Admiralty.

Earl Spencer 600

Moved, for Returns showing (1) numbers of nucleus crews at present borne in each battleship, cruiser, and torpedo vessel of the Fleet in commission and reserve; number of crew when complete for war in each ship; number of special ratings now actually borne and when complete for war. (2) Amounts actually expended in current financial year out of the amounts shown in the Navy Estimates for 1904–5 as to be expended on repairs and refits for the "Collingwood," "Pallas," and other ships since struck off the effective list.—(*Earl Spencer.*)

Viscount Goschen 609
The First Lord of the Admiralty (*The Earl of Selborne*) 614

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House adjourned at half-past Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 21st MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills (Standing Order 63 Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 63 has been complied with, viz.:—London United Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 627

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PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—Malvern Water.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 627

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP NO. 5).—Mr. COMPTON RICKETT reported from the Committee on Group No. 5 of Railway Bills ; That, for the convenience of Parties, they had adjourned till Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 627

South Metropolitan Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments ; Report to lie upon the Table 627

PETITION.

SUGAR TAX.—Petition from London, for repeal ; to lie upon the Table 627

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3329 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 628

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

LIGHT AT OYSTER ISLAND, SLIGO.—Question, Mr. Charles McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange) ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 628

IRISH LIGHTS TENDER "ALEXANDRA."—Question, Mr. Charles McArthur ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 628

SECTORING OF LIGHT AT ROANCARRIG.—Question, Mr. Charles McArthur ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 628

SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES OF THE LIGHTHOUSE BOARDS.—Question, Mr. Charles McArthur ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 629

ENGAGEMENTS AND DISCHARGES OF BRITISH SEAMEN AT CONTINENTAL PORTS.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green) ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 629

REPORT OF ACCIDENT ON S.S. "SPHEROID."—Question, Mr. Nannetti ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 631

BRITISH SEAMEN DISCHARGED AT ROTTERDAM, ANTWERP, AND HAMBURG—WAGES PAID—AMOUNT TRANSMITTED BY BOARD OF TRADE.—Question, Mr. Nannetti ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 632

"OVINGDEAN GRANGE"— REPLACING OF BRITISH CREW BY FOREIGNERS.—Question, Mr. Nannetti ; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 633

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CROWN LANDS AT CLAYGATE, SURREY.—Question, Mr. Trevelyan (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 633

LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES AND POISON REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 633

NEW POST OFFICE AT DEWSBURY.—Question, Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury); Answer, Lord Stanley 634

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NAVAL PRIZE OF WAR BILL.—Question, Mr. Gardner (Berkshire, Wokingham); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 634

H.M.S. "KENT."—Question, Mr. Gardner; Answer, Mr. Pretyman 635

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR—DESTRUCTION OF STORES, ETC.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 635

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY COMMITTEE GRANT.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 636

SMALL ARMS AMMUNITION.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 637

STRENGTH OF THE INFANTRY.—Question, Major Seely (Isle of Wight); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 637

THE HOME SERVICE ARMY AND THE VOLUNTEERS.—Question, Major Seely; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 638

COLONIAL AGENTS—GENERAL AND SUPPLY OF STORES FOR SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield), and Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 638

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTORS.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 638

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STANDING COMMITTEES.—Ordered, That all Standing Committees have leave to print and circulate with the Votes the Minutes of their Proceedings and any amended Clauses of Bills committed to them.—(*Mr. John Ellis.*) .. 668

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure:—Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas, Mr. Solicitor-General, and Sir James Heath; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Bonar Law, and Mr. Morrison 668

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

Housing of the Working Classes Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes," presented by Mr. Nannetti; supported by Captain Norton, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Field, and Sir J. Fortescue Flannery; to be read a second time upon Monday, April 10th, and to be printed. [Bill 111.] 668

Places of Worship (Sites) Bill.—"To give further facilities for the acquisition of sites for Places of Worship," presented by Mr. Herbert Lewis; supported by Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Perks, Mr. Compton Rickett, and Mr. Whitley; to be read a second time To-morrow and to be printed. [Bill 112.] 668

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1904–5. CLASS III.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other legal Proceedings."

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item BB (Criminal Prosecutions not undertaken by the Director of Public Prosecutions) be reduced by £200."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 670
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 671
The Attorney-General (*Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs*) 672
Mr. Bond (*Nottingham, E.*) 675

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 173 ; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 68.)

Original Question again proposed.
Mr. Lough 679

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item BBB (Compensations for Wrongful Imprisonment) be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 684
Mr. Asquith (*Fifeshire, E.*) 688
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's* 691
Mr. Atherley-Jones (*Durham, N.W.*) 700

And, it being half-past Five of the clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th March, proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the Vote under consideration.

Question put, "That Item BBB (Compensations for Wrongful Imprisonment) be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 204 ; Noes, 257. (Division List No. 69.)

Original Question put, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other Legal Proceedings."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 257 ; Noes, 209. (Division List No. 70.)

The Chairman, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, then proceeded to put forthwith the Question, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £63,930, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for Expenditure on the following Services included in the Civil Services Supplementary Estimates, 1904–5.

	£
CLASS III.	
County Courts - - - - - - - - -	10
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland - - -	860
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland - - -	60
CLASS IV.	
Scientific Investigations, etc. - - - - -	9,000
CLASS V	
Protectorates - - - - - - - -	54,000
	£63,930

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 262 ; Noes, 207. (Division List No. 71.)

Question put, "That the Chairman do report these Resolutions to the House"

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 256 ; Noes, 205. (Division List No. 72.)

Resolutions to be reported upon Thursday ; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

The Chairman, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put forthwith the Questions—

1. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, the sum of £626,630 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 261 ; Noes, 202. (Division List No. 73.)

2. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, the sum of £28,172,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 251 ; Noes, 201. (Division List No. 74.)

"That the Chairman do Report these Resolutions to the House."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 247 ; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 75.)

Resolutions to be reported upon Thursday ; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

SUPPLY MARCH 8TH.

Resolution reported.

ARMY SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1904–5 (SOMALILAND).—That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £550,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for additional Expenditure in respect of the following Army services, viz. :—

		£
Vote 1.	Pay, etc., of the Army - - - - -	985,000
„ 2.	Medical Establishments, Pay, etc. - - -	21,000
„ 6.	Transport and Remounts - - - - -	265,000
„ 7.	Provisions, Forage, and other supplies - - -	260,000
„ 12.	Miscellaneous Effective Services - - -	2,000

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Vote 14. Retired Pay, Half-Pay, and other non-effective charges for Officers, etc. - - - - -	1,000
,, 15. Pensions and other non-effective charges for Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Men, and others - - - - - - -	2,000
	1,536,000
Less Surpluses on other Votes - - - - -	386,000
	1,150,000
Deduct Excess Appropriations in Aid - - -	600,000
	£550,000

Resolution read a second time.

Mr. Courtney Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 738

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, Further Consideration of the Resolution stood adjourned.

Resolution to be further considered To-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

North Eastern Railway Bill [By Order].—Read a second time, and committed.

Mr. Bell (*Derby*) 740

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to leave out Clause 37."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Sir Edward Grey (*Northumberland, Berwick*) 740

Amendments, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 740
Sir Edward Grey 741
Sir Charles Renshaw (*Renfrewshire, W.*) 742
Mr. Atherley-Jones (*Durham, N.W.*) 742
Mr. Whitley 742
Sir Edward Strachey (*Somersetshire, S.*) 743
Mr. Lloyd Wharton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon*) 744
Mr. Scott Montagu (*Hampshire, New Forest*) 744

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Midland Railway Bill [By Order].—Read a second time, and committed.

Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 745

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to whom the Bill is referred that they limit the provisions of Clause 22 to omnibuses, coaches, cars, and other road vehicles conveying persons, luggage, parcels, and goods to and from the company's railway stations."—(*Mr. Whitley*).

Sir Charles Renshaw 748

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

North Eastern Railway (Steam Vessels) Bill (BY ORDER).—[SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir William Tomlinson (*Preston*) 745

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir William Tomlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Sir Edward Grey (*Northumberland, Berwick*) 747
Mr. Charles McArthur (*Liverpool Exchange*) 747

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed.

Great Western Railway (Additional Powers) Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a second time, and committed. 747

IRISH LAND ACT, 1903.

Mr. Ffrench (*Wexford, S.*) 748
Mr. Kilbride (*Kildare, S.*) 753

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House is of opinion that the system of limits within which the Estates Commissioners are obliged to advance the prices of farms in Ireland without inquiring as to the sufficiency of the security has had an effect disastrous to the interests of the tenant farmers, and the general ratepayers of Ireland; and that the Land Act of 1903 has utterly failed to effect one of its main objects in remedying the congestion of the population in certain districts of Ireland, and providing the people with economic holdings; and that this failure can only be remedied by the grant of compulsory powers to the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board for the purchase of estates declared by them to be congested estates, and of untenanted lands necessary for the relief of congestion." (*Mr. Ffrench.*)

The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 764
Mr. Hayden (*Roscommon, S.*) 773

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 139. (Division List No. 76.)

Adjourned at thirteen minutes after Twelve o'clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 22ND MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP C).—Mr. Stevenson reported from the Committee on Group C of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Friday, at Twelve of the Clock.

Report to lie upon the Table 777

London Gas Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 777

Gas Light and Coke, South Metropolitan, and Commercial Gas Companies Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table .. 777

Sale of Bread (London) Bill.—Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table 777

PETITIONS.

HOUSE LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions against; from Falkirk; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table 777

LANDS VALUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 777

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.—Petition from Aylesbury, in favour; to lie upon the Table 777

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NORTH SEA INCIDENT.—Copy presented, of Reports thereon by the Commissioners appointed by the Board of Trade, with covering Memorandum by Sir Francis Hopwood, K.C.B., C.M.G., Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 777

ARMY CLOTHING FACTORY.—Annual Account presented, of the Royal Army Clothing Factory for the year 1903–4, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 91.] 778

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Eleventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufactures in Scotland, being for the year ending 30th September, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 778

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Irish Land Commission (Account). Copy of Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General upon the Account of the Irish Land Commission for the year ended 31st March, 1904 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 92.] 778

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REPORTS ON EROSION OF SEA CLIFFS AROUND BRITISH COAST.—Question, Mr. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 778

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SEED POTATOES FOR BELMULLET UNION—REPAYMENT OF COST.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 782

SUPERVISORS AT BELMULLET AND BINGHAMSTOWN—CASE OF MESSRS. MUNELLY AND GAUGHAN.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly; Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 783

GUN LICENCES IN IRELAND—CASE OF MR. MICHAEL MUNNELLY.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 783

WINCHELSEA AND RYE MILITARY ROAD—SUGGESTED TRANSFER TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES.—Question, Dr. Hutchinson (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 783

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ENFIELD AND SPARKBROOK FACTORIES—DISCHARGE OF MEN.—Question, Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); Answer, Mr. Bromley Davenport 788

ILLUSTRATED DRESS REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Bromley Davenport 788

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MILITIA OFFICERS.—Question, Major Seely; Answer, Mr. Bromley Davenport 789

TRANSVAAL WAR CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT.—Questions, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) and Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 789

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THE BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 790

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O'DONNELL ESTATE, ERRIS, COUNTY MAYO.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 800

COYNE ESTATE, ERRIS, COUNTY MAYO.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 800

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Registration of Nurses.—Question, Dr. Hutchinson (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 804

Government Factories.—Question, Mr. Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 804

Law Officers' Remuneration.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 805

Company Law.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 805

Business of the House.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 806

Shipowners' Negligence (Remedies) Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 93.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 93.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Friday, 30th June, and to be printed. [Bill 113.] 806

Selection (Standing Committees).—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure:—Mr. Attorney-General and Mr. Bonar Law; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas and Mr. Solicitor-General.

Report to lie upon the Table 807

NEW BILLS.

Isle of Thanet Licensing Bill.—"To transfer to the Cinque Ports Justices of the Thanet Division of Dover in respect of the district in which they have jurisdiction, the powers in licensing matters now exercised in respect of that district by the Justices of Dover," presented by Mr. Marks; supported by Mr. Griffith Boscawen, Sir Horatio Davies, Mr. Heaton Henniker, and Mr. Tuff; to be read a second time upon Monday, April 10th, and to be printed. [Bill 114.]

Closing of Licensed Premises (St. Patrick's Day) (Ireland) Bill.—"To enforce the closing of Licensed Premises on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland," presented by Mr. O'Mara; supported by Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Boland, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien, and Mr. Flynn; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 115.]

Public Roads (Ireland) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the repair and maintenance of Public Roads in Ireland," presented by Mr. O'Dowd; supported by Mr. Clancy, Mr. Conor O'Kelly, Mr. Patrick Aloysius McHugh, and Mr. Cullinan; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 116.]

SUPPLY [20TH MARCH].

Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES 1905-6 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).—" That a sum, not exceeding £21,500,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, viz. :—

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS III.

Ireland :—	
Land Commission	£70,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—	
Colonial Office	25,000
Local Government Board	86,000

CLASS I.

Royal Palaces	26,000
Osborne	7,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	43,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings	25,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	33,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	15,0000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	54,000
Revenue Buildings	200,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain	180,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	90,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	8,000
Peterhead Harbour	10,000
Rates on Government Property	260,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	110,000
Railways, Ireland	35,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—	
House of Lords Offices	7,000
House of Commons Offices	15,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments	40,000
Home Office	66,000
Foreign Office	25,000
Privy Council Office, etc.	3,000
Board of Trade	85,000
Mercantile Marine Services	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	3
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries	55,000
Charity Commission	15,000
Civil Service Commission	17,000
Exchequer and Audit Department	25,000
Friendly Societies Registry	3,000
Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	5
National Debt Office	6,000

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Public Record Office	10,000
Public Works Loan Commission	5
Registrar-General's Office	17,000
Stationery and Printing	330,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	30,000
Secret Service	40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland, Office of	25,000
Fishery Board	5,000
Lunacy Commission	3,000
Registrar-General's Office	2,000
Local Government Board	5,000

Ireland :—

Lord-Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary for Ireland	12,000
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	80,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office	1,000
Local Government Board	27,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	17,000
Registrar-General's Office	5,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey	6,000

Class III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	28,000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	18,000
County Courts	2,000
Police, England and Wales	13,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	350,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	130,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	12,000

Scotland :—

Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters' Commission, Scotland	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	37,000

Ireland :—

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	32,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	43,000
County Court Officers, etc.	45,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	60,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600.000
Prisons, Ireland	54,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,000
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500

Class IV.

	£
United Kingdom and England :—	
Board of Education	7,000,000
British Museum	70,000
National Gallery	10,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	3,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	24,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	60,000
Scotland :—	
Public Education	770,000
National Gallery	5,000
Ireland :—	
Public Education	760,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	2,500
Queen's Colleges	2,500

Class V.

Diplomatic and Consular Services	250,000
Colonial Services	595,000
Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	35,000
Cyprus (Grant in Aid)	15,000

Class VI.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	300,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	1,500
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	—

Class VII.

Temporary Commissions	20,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	14,587
Repayments to the Local Loans Fund	—
Ireland Development Grant	100,000
Visit of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India	—
Total for Civil Services	£14,700,000

Revenue Departments.

Customs	£350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	250,000
Post Office Telegraphs	2,200,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£7,430,000
Grand Total	£21,500,000

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Resolution read a second time.

Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 811
Mr. McCrae (*Edinburgh, E.*) 815

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£21,500,000' and insert '£21,499,000'"—(*Major Seely*)—"instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That '£21,500,000' stand part of the Resolution."

Mr. Sydney Buxton (*Tower Hamlets, Poplar*) 818
Mr. Herbert Samuel (*Yorkshire, Cleveland*) 820
Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 822
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington*) 826
Sir Edward Grey (*Northumberland, Berwick*) 836
Mr. Churchill (*Oldham*) 840
Mr. Bryn Roberts (*Carnarvonshire, Eifion*) 844
Mr. Markham (*Nottinghamshire, Mansfield*) 846
Mr. Labouchere (*Northampton*) 850
Mr. Emmott (*Oldham*) 853
Sir Edgar Vincent (*Exeter*) 856
Mr. John Burns (*Battersea*) 857
Mr. Yoxall (*Nottingham, W.*) 860
Mr. Broadhurst (*Leicester*) 861
Mr. Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) 864

Question put.

House divided:—Ayes, 256; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 77).

Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Dr. Macnamara (*Camberwell, N.*) 869
Sir John Gorst (*Cambridge University*) 873
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 874
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (*Sir William Anson, Oxford University*) 875

And it being half-past Seven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to Standing Order No. 15, put that Question.

The House divided:—Ayes, 241; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 78.)

EVENING SITTING.

PROTECTIONIST PROPOSALS.

Mr. Ainsworth (*Argyllshire*) 881
Mr. Richard Cavendish (*Lancashire, North Lonsdale*) 883

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That in the opinion of this House, the imposition of a general duty on all manufactured goods imported from Abroad not exceeding 10 per cent. on the average and varying according to the amount of labour in these goods would be injurious to the commercial interests of the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Ainsworth.*)

The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (*Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.*) 886
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (*Stirling Burghs*) 895
Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 900
Lord Hugh Cecil (*Greenwich*) 905
Mr. Crombie (*Kincardineshire*) 912

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 254 ; Noes, 2. (Division List, No. 79.)

Vivisection.

Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 917

Motion made and Question proposed—" That, in the opinion of this House, no operations for the purposes of Vivisection should be performed on dogs."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.*) 919

And, it being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Adjournment.

Motion made ; and Question proposed, " That this House do now adjourn." —(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury (*Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington*) 920

Adjourned at four minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS : THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1905.

Earl of Kenmare.—Petition of Valentine Charles Earl of Kenmare, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the election of Representative Peers for Ireland ; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House 921

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill [H.L.], now Holy Trinity Portsea Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 921

Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 27th of February last and the 13th instant discharged, and Bill committed 921

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Commercial Union Assurance Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 28th of February last and the 13th instant discharged, and Bill committed 921

Hessle Gas Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 24th of February last and the 13th instant discharged, and Bill committed .. 921

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company Bill [H.L.].—East London and Lower Thames Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.]; City of London Electric Lighting Company Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Acton District) Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.]; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]; Central Electric Supply Bill [H.L.]; County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee not to sit again till Monday next 921

Truro Water Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 27th of February last, and 7th instant discharged, and Bill committed 922

Leeds and Liverpool Canal Bill [H.L.].—Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table The orders made on the 24th of February last and 7th instant discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next 922

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC BILLS.—Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of February 16th last), and to be printed. (No. 34.).. 922

NORTH SEA INCIDENT.—Reports thereon by the Commissioners appointed by the Board of Trade, with covering Memorandum by Sir Francis Hopwood, K.C.B., C.M.G., Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade 922

NATIONAL GALLERY (SCOTLAND).—Eleventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and trustees of the Board of Manufactures in Scotland, for the year ended September 30th, 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 922

NATIONAL DEBT ANNUITIES.—Account of the gross amouns fo all bank annuities, and any annuities for terms of years, transferred, and of all sums of money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the gross amount of annuities for lives and for terms of years which have been granted for the same, and contracts for payments on death which have been made within the year ended January 5th, 1905. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 922

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NEW BILLS.

Merchant Shipping Act (1894) Amendment Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the carriage of deck-loads in the winter time, was presented by the Lord Muskerry; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 35.) 923

Patents, Designs, and Trade Marks (Registration of Patent Agents) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law relating to patent agents, was presented by the Lord Coleridge; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 36.) .. ..

Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill [H.L.].—Moved, That the following Lords be named of the Select Committee:

D. Northumberland.
E. Derby.
E. Stanhope.
V. Gordon (*E. Aberdeen*).
L. Bishop of Rochester.
L. Belper
L. Sandhurst.
L. Avebury.—(*Lord Avebury*).

The Earl of Wemyss 923
Lord Avebury 925

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Committee to appoint their own Chairman.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five o'Clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'Clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 23RD MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means from this Evening's Sitting 927

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—
Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 927

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz. :—London Southern Tramways Bill; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 927

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Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill.—As amended, considered, to be read the third time 927

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read a third time To-morrow 927

Epping Gas Bill; Loughborough Corporation Bill; Seaham Gas Bill; Wrexham Gas Bill; Great Eastern Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 927

Clay Cross Railway (Abandonment) Bill; Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment) Bill. Reported, without Amendment; Reports to lie upon the Table and to be printed 928

Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Bill; Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill; Chelsea Electricity Supply Bill, South Suburban Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table 928

Sunderland and South Shields Water Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 928

PETITIONS.

Court of Criminal Appeal.—Petition from Brighton, for establishment; to lie upon the Table 928

Liquor Traffic Local Veto (Scotland) Bill.—Petitions in favour; from Bathgate; and Crail; to lie upon the Table 928

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Public Accounts (Army Votes).—Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 21st March, 1905, under the Appropriation Act, 1904, authorising the temporary application of surpluses on certain Army Votes for the year 1904–5 to defray excesses on other Army Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 94.] 928

National Debt Annuities.—Account presented, of the Gross Amount of all Bank Annuities and any Annuities for terms of years transferred, and of all Sums of Money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the Gross Amount of Annuities for Lives and for terms of years, etc., granted within the year ended 5th January, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 95.] 928

Fleets (Great Britain and Foreign Countries).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th March; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 96.] 928

Petty Sessions Clerks (Ireland) (Salaries).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 11th August, 1904; *Mr. Ffrench*]; to lie upon the Table 928

Turkey (No. 1, 1905).—Copy presented, of Decree relating to the Ottoman Public Debt, issued 1st (14th) September, 1903, as an Annex to the Decree of 28 Mouharrem 1299 (8th (20th) December, 1887) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 928

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Manufacture of Rifle and Bayonets—Dismissals at Enfield Factory.—Question, Col. Bowles (Middlesex, Enfield); Answer, Mr. Bromley Davenport 937

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Indian Gold Reserve.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 938

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SUPPLY OF SALT BY THE GOVERNMENT TO NATIVES STATES IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 939

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EVENING SCHOOL TEACHERS' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. D. A. Thomas; Answer, Sir William Anson 962

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION RATE IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 963

NESS HARBOUR, ISLAND OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 963

MANSFIELD COMMISSION REPORT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 963

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ILLEGAL TRAWLING OFF THE ISLE OF MOY.—Question, Captain Ellice (St. Andrew's Burghs); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 963

ESTATES COMMISSIONERS—IRISH GOVERNMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 964

SERGEANT MULLANY, ROYAL IRISH CONSTABULARY.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 965

CRIME IN IRELAND—JUDGE'S CHARGES.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.), Mr. Flynn (Cork, W.), Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 965

PUBLIC BODIES ORDER, 1904.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer; Mr. Walter Long 966

LAND PURCHASE IN NORTH MAYO.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 967

BALLYDONLON ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 967

POLE CAREW AND BUTLER ESTATES, COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 968

VETERINARY BRANCH, IRISH AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT.—Questions, Mr. Delany, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Walter Long 968

MRS. LAMPHIER'S ESTATE, FOALACUMINL, COUNTY TIPPERARY.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 969

DUBLIN TRAM FARES FOR CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 970

CHARGES AGAINST MOUNTMELLICK POLICE.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 970

W. T. GALWAY'S ESTATE, CLOONCAH, COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Roche and Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 971

IRISH LANGUAGE—DUNFANAGHY PROSECUTION.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 971

LICENSING FEES IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 971

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEACHING IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Samuel Young (Cavan, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 972

CORK AND FERMOY DIRECT LINE.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.) 972

STAMP DUTY ON IRISH LAND PURCHASES.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 973

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The Colonial Conference and Fiscal Reform.—Questions, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Banstaple) and Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 973

Company Directors in Parliament.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 974

The Training of Teachers.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 975

Business of the House.—Questions, Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.), Sir Frederick Banbury (Camberwell, Peckham), Major Seely and Mr. Churchill; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 975

Compensation for Damage to Crops Bill.—Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 97.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 97.]

Bill as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered upon Friday, July 7th, and to be printed. [Bill 117.] 977

Selection (Standing Committees).

Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection: That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping and Manufactures:—Mr. Llewellyn; and had appointed in substitution: Sir J. Fortescue Flannery 977

Report to lie upon the Table.

Message from the Lords.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further provisions for the foundation of a Dean and Chapter of Newcastle, and for other purposes connected therewith." [Newcastle Chapter (Amendment) Bill [Lords.] 978

NEW BILLS.

Crown Lands Bill.—"To amend the Crown Lands Acts, 1829 to 1894," presented by Mr. Victor Cavendish; supported by Lord Balcarres; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 118.] .. 978

Public Libraries Bill.—"To amend the Acts relating to Public Libraries by removing the existing limit to the amount of the Library Rate," presented by Mr. Tennant; supported by Sir Albert Rollit, Sir William Houldsworth, Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. Thornton, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Middlemore, Mr. Hunter Craig, and Mr. Haldane; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 119.] 978

SUPPLY [8TH MARCH]—REPORT.

Order read, for further consideration of resolution—

ARMY SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1904-5 (SOMALILAND).—"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £550,000, be granted to His Majesty to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for additional expenditure in respect of the following Army services, viz.:—

	£
Vote 1. Pay, etc., of the Army - - - - -	985,000
,, 2. Medical Establishments, Pay, etc. - - - - -	21,000
,, 6. Transport and Remounts - - - - - -	265,000
,, 7. Provisions, Forage, and other supplies - - -	260,000
,, 12. Miscellaneous Effective Services - - - -	2,000
,, 14. Retired Pay, Half-Pay, and other non-effective charges for Officers, etc. - - - - -	1,000
,, 15. Pensions and other non-effective charges for Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Men, and others - - - - - -	2,000
	1,536,000
Less Surpluses on other Votes - - - - - -	386,000
	1,150,000
Deduct Excess Appropriations in Aid - - - - -	600,000
	£550,000

Mr. Courtenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield)

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£550,000,' and insert £300,000.'"—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That £550,000 stand part of the said Resolution."

Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.) 981
Mr. Lyell (Dorsetshire, E.) 984
Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs) 988
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 989
Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden) 989
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 990
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) 992
Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) 993
Sir Carne Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford) 994
Mr. Burdett-Coutts (Westminster) 995
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield) 998

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 241; Noes, 208. (Division List No. 80.)

Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 1007
Earl Percy 1007
Captain Norton (Newington, W.) 1008

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Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 231; Noes, 203. (Division List No. 81.)

SUPPLY [13TH MARCH].

Resolution reported,

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1905–6.—"That 129,000 officers, seamen and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, including 20,211 Royal Marines."

Resolution read a second time.

Mr. Charles Hobhouse (*Bristol, E.*) 1014
Mr. Whitley (*Halifax*) 1015

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '129,000,' and insert '128,900'."—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That '129,000' stand part of the said Resolution."

Mr. Edmund Robertson (*Dundee*) 1015
The Secretary to the Admiralty (*Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge*) .. 1017
Mr. McCrae (*Edinburgh, E.*) 1019
Mr. Pretyman 1020

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [14TH MARCH].

Resolution reported.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1905–6.

"That a sum, not exceeding £6,672,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [21ST MARCH].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1904–5.

CLASS III.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other Legal Proceedings."

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2. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £10, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses connected with the County Courts."

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £860, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland."

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £60, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Expenses of the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland."

Class IV.

5. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £9,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Expenses connected with the Relief of the National Antarctic Expedition."

Class V.

6. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £54,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, in Aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorate in Somaliland."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution.

Mr. Lambert (*Devonshire, South Molton*) 1021

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£12,000,' and insert '£11,900.'"—(*Mr. Lambert.*)

Question proposed, "That '£12,000' stand part of the said Resolution."

The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (*Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.*) 1025
Sir Robert Reid (*Dumfries Burghs*) 1026
Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 1027
Sir Albert Rollit (*Islington, S.*) 1028
Mr. J. F. Hope (*Sheffield, Brightside*) 1029
The Solicitor-General (*Sir Edward Carson, Dublin University*) 1031
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 1033

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 247 ; Noes, 158. (Division List No. 82.)

And it being half-past Seven of the clock, Further Consideration of the Resolution stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

[Further consideration of Second Resolution deferred till this Evening's Sitting.]

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [21ST MARCH] REPORT.

Order read, for Further Consideration of First Resolution, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other Legal Proceedings."

Resolution further considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Cripps (*Lancashire, Stretford*) 1039
Mr. Herbert Robertson (*Hackney, S.*) 1043
Mr. Stuart Wortley (*Sheffield, Hallam*) 1045
The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.*) 1047
Mr. Swift MacNeill 1049
Mr. Lough (*Islington, W.*) 1050

And, it being Ten of the Clock, Mr. Speaker, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th March, put that Question.

The House divided :—Ayes, 239 ; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 83.)

Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, then put forthwith the Question, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in all the remaining Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates."

The House divided :—Ayes, 251 ; Noes, 198. (Division List No. 84.)

WAYS AND MEANS [21ST MARCH].—Resolutions reported.

1. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, the sum of £626,630 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

2. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, the sum of £28,172,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

Whereupon Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put forthwith the Question, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions."

The House divided :—Ayes, 254 ; Noes, 199. (Division List No. 85.)

Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Victor Cavendish.

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Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—"To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the 31st day of March one thousand nine hundred and five and one thousand nine hundred and six," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 1065
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustines) 1066
Mr. Shackleton (Lancashire, Clitheroe) 1066
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) 1067
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 1069
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1069
Mr. Blake (Longford, S.) 1070
Captain Donelan (Cork, E.) 1070
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1071

Adjourned at Twenty-one minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: FRIDAY, 24th MARCH, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]—A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee 1073

Clyde Navigation Bill [H.L.]—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1073

Entre Rios Railways Bill [H.L.].—Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons. 1073

Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill.—Read 3ª, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons .. 1073

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [H.L.].—The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Order for the Second Reading on Monday the 3rd of April next, discharged. Ordered, That the Bill be not further proceeded with 1073

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3330. France (Brest). 1073

TURKEY, No. 1 (1905) (OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT).—Decree issued 1st (14th) September, 1903, as an annex to the decree of 28 Mouharrem, 1299 (8th (20th) December, 1881).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1073

BISHOPRICS ACT, 1878, AND BISHOPRICS OF SOUTHWARK AND BIRMINGHAM ACT, 1904.—Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, founding the Bishopric of Southwark 1073

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.—Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, fixing the establishment of the Commissioners of Irish Lights, and the salaries to be paid to the several officers of their establishment 1074

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, entitled " The Southern Rhodesia Order in Council, 1905." 1074

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE).—Order made by the Council of the Borough of Rochdale, dividing certain wards of the borough into polling districts.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 1074

Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without Amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^a on Tuesday next 1074

STANDING COMMITTEE.—Report from the Committee of Selection for the Standing Committee, That they have added the Earl of Feversham to the Standing Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1074

House adjourned at half-past Four o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 24TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill.—WALKER AND WALLSEND UNION GAS BILL.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1074

Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1074

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1075

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the counties of Anglesey, Middlesex, and Stafford," presented by Mr. Grant Lawson; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 120.] .. 1075

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill.—" To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Milford Haven, Sheringham, Stalybridge, and Swinton," presented by Mr. Grant Lawson; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 121.] .. 1075

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Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parish of Hammersmith and the Poplar Union," presented by Mr. Grant Lawson; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 122.] 1075

Weybridge and Walton-upon-Thames Electric Supply Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table 1075

Newcastle Chapter (Amendment) Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 3rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 124.] 1075

Swansea Corporation Bill.—Reported, with Amendments. Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1075

PETITION.

Sugar Tax.—Petition from Hollingworth, for repeal; to lie upon the Table .. 1075

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Merchant Shipping Act, 1894.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, fixing the Establishment of the Commissioners of Irish Lights and the Salaries to be paid to the several officers of their Establishment [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1076

Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, entitled The Southern Rhodesia Order in Council, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1076

Bishoprics Act, 1878, and Bishoprics of Southwark and Birmingham Act, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, founding the Bishopric of Southwark [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1076

Polling Districts (Borough of Rochdale).—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Rochdale dividing certain Wards of the Borough into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1076

Railways Abandonment.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 1) Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158b]; referred to the Committee on the Bill 1076

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3330 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1076

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Relief for the Unemployed—Liability to Disfranchisement.—Question, Sir Charles McLaren (Leicestershire, Bosworth); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1076

Demand Notes for Collection of Rates—Statement of Amounts Required for Particular Purposes.—Question, Mr. Layland-Barratt (Devonshire, Torquay); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1077

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PROMOTION IN THE BRISTOL POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1078

PROTECTION OF BRITISH SUBJECTS AT BAKU.—Question, Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, Earl Percy 1078

ERECTION OF LABOURERS' COTTAGES IN THE STRABANE (No. 2) RURAL DISTRICT. —Question, Mr. McFadden (Donegal, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1079

TRANSIT FACILITIES AT SNEEM.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1079

SCIENCE TEACHING IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1080

TRAINING OF IRISH TEACHERS IN PRACTICAL SCIENCE.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork County, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1081

SALARY OF ASSISTANT TEACHER IN SCHOOL, ROLL No. 5736, DISTRICT 57, CIRCUIT 22E.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1081

Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill.—[SECOND READING.].

Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien (*Kilkenny*) 1082
Mr. Field (*Dublin, St. Patrick*) 1084

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Sir John Colomb (*Great Yarmouth*) 1089
Mr. Herbert Robertson (*Hackney, S.*) 1093

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Mr. T. W. Russell (*Tyrone, S.*) 1098
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 1102
Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 1103
Mr. Edward Mitchell (*Fermanagh, N.*) 1105
Mr. Hemphill (*Tyrone, N.*) 1106
Mr. Mooney (*Dublin County, S.*) 1108
Mr. Charles Craig (*Antrim, S.*) 1110
Mr. O'Shaughnessy (*Limerick, W.*) 1111
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.*) 1113
Mr. Clancy (*Dublin County, N.*) 1119
Sir Frederick Banbury (*Camberwell, Peckham*) 1119
Mr. Bond (*Nottingham, E.*) 1121

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 146; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 86.)

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Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien.*)

Sir John Colomb 1125

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 148 ; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 87.)

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Small Holdings Bill.—[Second Reading.].—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Channing (*Northamptonshire, E.*) 1127
Mr. Herbert Samuel (*Yorkshire, Cleveland*) 1133

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

The Secretary to the Local Government Board (*Mr. Grant Lawson, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk*) 1134

And, it being half-past Five of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Captain Donelan (*Cork, E.*) 1136
The Attorney-General for Ireland (*Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.*) .. 1136
Mr. Flynn (*Cork, N.*) 1137
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 1137
Mr. MacVeagh (*Down, S.*) 1138

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW BILL.

Places of Worship Enfranchisement.—Bill to provide for the enfranchisement of leasehold Places of Worship, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Samuel Evans, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Mr. George White, Mr. Bright, Mr. Lloyd Morgan, Mr. J. H. Whitley, and Mr. Moss.

Places of Worship Enfranchisement Bill.—" To provide for the enfranchisement of leasehold Places of Worship," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed." [Bill 123.] 1139

Deaths from Starvation or Accelerated by Privation (London).—Address for " Return of the number of all Deaths in the Administrative County of London, in the year 1904, upon which a Coroner's Jury has returned a verdict of Death from Starvation or Death Accelerated by Privation, together with any Observations furnished to the Local Government Board by Boards of Guardians with reference to cases included in the Return (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 289, of Session 1904)."—(*Mr. Talbot.*) 1140

POST OFFICE WAGES.—Copy ordered, "of Memorandum of the Postmaster-General, dated March 24th, 1905, setting forth changes about to be made in the wages of certain classes of Post Office servants."—(*Lord Stanley.*)

Copy presented accordingly ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 98.] 1140

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 27th MARCH, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with :—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table 1141

Donovan's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—Ordered That the petition of Alice Edith Donovan be further considered to-morrow 1141

Tralee Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª ; and passed, and sent to the Commons 1141

Metropolitan District Railway Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª ; Amendments made ; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons 1141

Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1141

Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [H.L.] ; Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.] ; Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee to adjourn over to-morrow 1141

Nine Mile Point Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Barry Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.] ; Rhymney Railway Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Ellenborough and the Lord Ludlow be proposed to the House as Members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Duke of Bedford and the Lord Hylton ; and that the Lord Ludlow be Chairman of the said Committee ; read and agreed to 1141

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill.—Brought from the Commons ; read 1ª ; to be printed ; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 38.) .. 1141

PETITION.

Sunday Closing (Shops) Bill [H.L.].—Petition in favour of ; of Irish Trades Union Congress ; read, and ordered to lie on the Table 1142

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Annual Report of proceedings under the Tithe Acts, 1836 to 1891, the Copyhold Act, 1894, the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1899, the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1900, the Drainage and Improvement of Land Acts, the Universities and College Estates Acts, 1858 to 1898, the Glebe Lands Act, 1888, etc., etc., for the year 1904.

Annual Reports of proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., etc., for the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1142

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.—Returns of the receipts and expenditure of the General Medical Council and of the Branch Councils, also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1904. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1142

NEW BILLS.

Merchant Shipping (Aliens) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. Was presented by the Lord Muskerry; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 37.) 1142

Street Betting Bill [H.L.].—[THIRD READING].—Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

The Lord Chancellor (The Earl of Halsbury) 1143

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 12, to leave out from the word 'not' to the end of the clause."—(*The Earl of Halsbury.*)

Lord James of Hereford 1144
Lord Davey 1145
The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury 1146

Moved, "That this debate be now adjourned."—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Lord Alverstone 1147
Earl Spencer 1147
The Earl of Halsbury 1148

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Debate adjourned to Tuesday, the 4th of April next.

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STORES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Lord Monkswell 1149

Moved to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, immediate action should be taken to inquire into the cause of the waste of supplies in South Africa and elsewhere, with a view to the prevention of further wastage in the future."—(*The Lord Monkswell.*)

The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Donoughmore*) .. 1158

Lord Monkswell 1165

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn

MILITARY BUILDINGS AT ST. LUCIA.

Lord Tweedmouth 1166
Earl of Donoughmore 1167
Earl Spencer 1168

The Secretary of State for Foregin Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) 1169

House adjourned at five minutes past Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 27TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1170

Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment) Bill—[NOT AMENDED].—Considered; to be read the third time 1170

South Metropolitan Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1170

Ilfracombe Harbour and Improvement Bill; Otley Gas and Improvement Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1170

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.—That they have agreed to—

Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for authorising the Entre Rios Railways Company, Limited, to increase its capital, and to fund the arrears of dividends on its preference shares by the issue of fully-paid second preference stock; and for other purposes." [Entre Rios Railways Bill [Lords.]

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Also a Bill, intituled, "An Act for authorising the Cordoba and Rosario Railway Company, Limited, to increase its capital, and to fund the arrears of dividends on its preferred shares by the issue of fully-paid second preferred shares; and for other purposes." [Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for the abandonment of the railways and works authorised by the Hastings Harbour District Railway Acts, 1897 and 1903." [Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [Lords.] 1170

Entre Rios Railways Bill [Lords]; Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [Lords]; Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1171

PETITIONS.

Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill.—Petitions in favour; from Altrincham; and Bermondsey and Rotherhithe; to lie upon the Table 1171

Unemployed Workmen.—Petition from Aberdeen, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 1171

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Medical Councils.—Accounts presented, for 1904, of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1171

Railways Abandonment.—Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158B]; referred to the Committee on the Bill 1171

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.—Copy presented, of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Tithe Acts, Copyhold Act, 1894, Inclosure Acts, and other Acts for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1171

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.—Copy presented, of Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1171

Local Government Board (Ireland) (Inspectors and Auditors).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th February; *Mr. J. P. Farrell*]; to lie upon the Table 1172

East India (Employment of Troops out of India).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address, 20th March; *Sir Walter Foster*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 99.] 1172

Vaccination Exemption Certificates.—Address for "Return of the Circular Letter on the subject of Vaccination Exemption Certificates, issued by the Home Office on the 1st day of September, 1904."—(*Mr. Weir.*) 1172

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ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).—Return ordered, "showing (1) the proceedings of parish councils in regard to Allotments and Common Pasture under Section 26 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894; and (2) the proceedings of county councils in regard to representations by parish councils for orders under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Section 26, authorising land to be taken on lease compulsorily for Allotments since the date of the last Return on the 8th day of July last (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 245, of Session 1904)."—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*) 1172

FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCE.—Copy ordered, "of Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*) 1172

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

DISCONTINUANCE OF BARRACK BUILDING OWING TO ABANDONMENT OF ARMY CORPS SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1172

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR CONTRACTS—SHORTWEIGHT JAM.—Question, Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1173

TRANSVAAL LOAN—PAYMENT OF PREMIUMS TO TRANSVAAL TREASURY.—Question, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1173

WATER SUPPLY OF ROSS-SHIRE SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1174

RETURN OF BURGH CHARITIES (SCOTLAND).—Question, Mr. Haldane (Haddingtonshire); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1174

OPERATIONS OF BOND INVESTMENT COMPANIES. — Question, Mr. Charles McArthur; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1174

NEW PATENT RULES.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1175

TELEGRAPHIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN WOLF AND LONGSHIPS LIGHTHOUSES AND THE SHORE.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1176

IMPORT DUTY AND PRICES OF WHEAT IN ENGLAND, FRANCE, GERMANY AND ITALY.—Question, Dr. Shipman (Northampton); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1176

VOLUNTARY SUBSCRIPTIONS TO AND COST OF MAINTENANCE OF NON-PROVIDED SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—Question, Dr. Shipman; Answer, Sir William Anson 1177

COMPULSORY TRANSFER OF FEMALE TELEGRAPHISTS FROM BATH.—Question, Mr. Barlow (Somersetshire, Frome); Answer, Lord Stanley 1177

ARMAGH POSTAL STAFF.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1178

JURISDICTION AND POSTAL SERVICE IN ZANZIBAR.—Question, Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden); Answer, Earl Percy 1178

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RELIEF FOR UNEMPLOYED.—Expenditure by Metropolitan Borough Councils, Question, Mr. Whitmore (Chelsea); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1178

PART PAYMENT OF POOR RATE.—Question, Mr. Robson (South Shields); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1179

OUTSTANDING EXCHEQUER AND TREASURY BILLS.—Question, Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1179

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOL OF BREWING.—Competition of Laboratory with Private Analyists.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1179

PURCHASE OF RIFLES BY INDIAN GOVERNMENT.—Question, Colonel Bowles (Middlesex, Enfield); Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1180

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD CONSTABLE BRATTON OF ATHY, COUNTY KILDARE Question, Mr. John O'Connor (Kildare, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1181

O'DONNEL ESTATE, NEWPORT, COUNTY MAYO.—Question, Dr. Ambrose; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1181

NAMES AND PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS OF IRISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD AUDITORS.—Question, Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1181

DISCHARGE OF ASSISTANT TEACHER OF SCHOOL ROLL No 15,008.—Question, Mr. Sheehan (Cork Co., Mid.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1182

CONDUCT OF CONSTABLES GUMBLETON AND ROCHE AT BELMULLET.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1182

QUALIFICATION OF HEADMASTER OF TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION AT ARMAGH.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1183

IRISH AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT—TRANSFER OF A CATHOLIC CLERK.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1184

FIELD GUNS FOR 4TH WEST YORK VOLUNTEER ARTILLERY.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1184

MOBILISATION MANUALS.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1184

ISSUE OF SOMALILAND MEDALS.—Question, Mr. Butcher (York); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1185

BARRACKS ON SALISBURY PLAIN—FURTHER EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Brooke Robinson (Dudley); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Foster 1185

REDUCTION OF TRANSVAAL CONSTABULARY—MAINTENANCE OF ORDER BETWEEN CHINESE AND KAFFIRS.—Question, Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1185

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QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NAVY RETIREMENT REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 1186

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR JAM CONTRACTS—GOVERNMENT EXPLANATION.—Question, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield) 1186

WESTERN AUSTRALIA—ILL-TREATMENT OF ABORIGINES.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 1187

LIQUOR SHOPS IN MADRAS PRESIDENCY.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1188

DEATHS FROM PLAGUE AND SMALLPOX IN INDIA.—Questions, Mr. Herbert Roberts Mr. Schwann (Manchester, N.); and Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answers, Mr. Brodrick 1188

ITALY AND THE CONGO FREE STATE.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 1188

SALONICA DISTURBANCES.—Question, Mr. Charles Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud) Answer, Earl Percy 1189

TURKISH OUTRAGES AT KUKLISH.—Question, Mr. Charles Allen; Answer, Earl Percy 1190

GRANTS TO ENGLISH UNIVERSITY COLLEGES.—Questions, Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.); and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1191

THE BABBICOMBE MURDERER.—Questions, Mr. Fenwick (Northumberland, Wansbeck), and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustines) 1191

BRIGHTON WOMEN TELEGRAPHISTS—COMPULSORY SUNDAY DUTY.—Question, Mr. Schwann; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1193

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS—POSTAGE RATES.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Lord Stanley 1193

UNDERFED SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Question, Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 1193

POOR LAW RELIEF FOR UNDERFED CHILDREN.—Questions, Sir John Gorst; Answers, Sir William Anson 1194

UNDERFED SCHOOL CHILDREN ON THE CONTINENT.—Question, Dr. Macnamara; Answer, Sir William Anson 1195

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD AND UNDERFED SCHOOL CHILDREN—MILK RELIEF. —Questions, Sir John Gorst and Mr. Horner (Lambeth, N.); Answers, The President of theLocal Government Board (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1195

LOCAL BUILDING BY-LAWS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1196

ISLAND OF LEWIS—VISITS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Lord-Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton 1197

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1197

ROSS-SHIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND FEVER OUTBREAKS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1198

MERCANTILE MARINE—TRAINING FOR SCOTCH BOYS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1198

JURY PACKING AT CORK ASSIZES.—Questions, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.) and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1199

THOMAS DOWLING'S CAPPAWHITE ESTATE, COUNTY TIPPERARY.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1199

GUN LICENCES IN COUNTY GALWAY—CASE OF THOMAS KERRY.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1200

INNISKEN ISLAND.—Questions, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1201

O'DONNELL AND COYNE ESTATE, ERRIS, COUNTY MAYO.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1201

BUTTEVANT EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1202

UNTENANTED LANDS IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON—IRWIN, BALF GOFF ESTATES.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1202

MR. YOUNG'S CASTLEREA ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Hayden; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1203

LISMORE GUARDIANS AND IRISH MANUFACTURES.—Question, Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1203

BALLYDONLON ESTATE, COUNTY GALWAY.—Question, Mr. Roche; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1204

DONEGAL GRAND JURY.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1204

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AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTION IN DONEGAL.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1205

ELEMENTARY SCIENCE TEACHING IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1205

GOFF ESTATE. COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1206

IRISH BOARD OF EDUCATION RULES.—Question, Mr. John Redmond; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1207

POLE CAREW AND BUTLER ESTATE, COUNTY CORK.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1208

MAJOR PHILIPPS' ESTATE, COUNTY KILKENNY.—Question, Mr. Joseph Devlin (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1208

QUEEN'S COUNTY EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1209

LOUGH NEAGH DRAINAGE TRUSTEES.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) Mr, Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.) .. 1209

PORTAVOGIE PIER, COUNTY DOWN.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1211

BANN DRAINAGE WORKS.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh and Mr. T. W. Russell; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1212

ARMY STORES WASTAGE.—Questions, Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield) Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) and Sir A. Hayter (Walsall) 1212

DISCHARGES FROM DOCKYARDS.—Question, Mr. Benn (Devonport); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1213

ARMY CLOTHING VOTE.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean), Mr. Whitley (Halifax) and Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1214

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE—MR. GIBSON BOWLES' WITHDRAWAL.—Questions, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour and The Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury (Sir A Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) 1215

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSIONERS—COST OF ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Stevenson (Suffolk, Eye); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1216

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.—Questions, Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury), Mr. Churchill (Oldham) and Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Speaker 1217

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1218

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NEW BILL.

Local Authorities (Taxation and Purchase of Land) Bill.—" To provide for the Taxation and Purchase of Land by Local Authorities," presented by Dr. Macnamara ; supported by Mr. Bell, Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Levy, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Toulmin, and Mr. George White ; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 13th April, and to be printed. [Bill 125.]

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill [SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 1219
Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis) 1221
Mr. McKenna (Monmouthshire, N.) 1223

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.' "—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, " That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1225

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 1231
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) 1237

Amendment proposed—

" To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.' "—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Question proposed, " That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

Sir John Gorst (Cambridge University) 1244
Dr. Hutchinson (Sussex, Rye) 1251
Colonel Lockwood (Essex, Epping) 1253
Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) 1256
Mr. Findlay (Lanarkshire, N.E.) 1258
Sir George Bartley (Islington, W.) 1259
Sir Walter Foster (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) 1261
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 1263
Mr. Thomas Shaw (Hawick Burghs) 1268
Mr. J. F. Hope (Sheffield, Brightside) 1274

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 215 ; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 88.)

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question (March 27th), "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford, N.) 1277
Mr. Power (Waterford, E.) 1281
Mr. William Moore (Antrim, N.) 1284
Mr. Cogan (Wicklow, E.) 1287
Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.) 1290
Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway) 1290
Mr. Clancy (Dublin County, N.) 1293
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1295
Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.) 1304

And, it being half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put that Question.

The House divided :—Ayes, 217 ; Noes, 172. (Division List No. 89.)

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

NEW BILL.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (FEEDING OF CHILDREN).—Bill to make provision for the feeding of Children in Public Elementary Schools, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. James Hope, Dr. Macnamara, Sir Albert Rollit, Sir Ernest Flower, Mr. Coghill, and Mr. Forde Ridley.

Elementary Education (Feeding of Children) Bill.—"To make provision for the feeding of Children in Public Elementary Schools," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 126.] 1307

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (IRELAND).—Return ordered, "setting forth the names, age, length of service, and place of education, of each salaried official in the various Government Departments in Ireland.—(*Mr. MacVeagh*) 1309

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury) 1309
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 1310

Adjourned at one minute after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1905.

Earl of Kenmare.—Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of Valentine Charles, Earl of Kenmare, in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the election of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table .. 1313

Sat First.—The Lord Wynford sat first in Parliament after the death of his father 1313

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

West Cumberland Electric Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.].—Reported, without Amendment 1313

Hastings Harbour Bill [H.L.].—The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments 1313

Metropolitan Railway Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 1313

Hesse Gas Bill [H.L.].—Reported, with Amendments 1313

Clacton Improvement Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 21st of Ferbuary last and the 13th instant, discharged, and Bill committed 1313

Holy Trinity Portsea Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons 1313

Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners 1313

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Marriages, Births and Deaths, and Vaccination (Scotland).—Fiftieth Annual Report of the Registrar-General in Scotland of the marriages, births, and deaths registered for the year 1904; and Fortieth Annual Report on Vaccination 1313

Crofter Holdings (Scotland) Acts, 1886–87.—Report by the Crofters' Commission, for the year ended December 31st, 1904 1314

Trade Reports (Annual Series).—No. 3331. Netherlands (Amsterdam) .. 1314

Marriages, Births, and Deaths (England and Wales).—General abstract of marriages, births, and deaths registered in England and Wales in the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1314

Prevention of Corruption Bill [H.L.]; Married Women's Property Act (1882) Amendment Bill [H.L.]; Prize Courts Bill [H.L.]; Naval Prize Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment; and to be read 3ª on Thursday next 1314

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Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order); Amendments (Privilege) made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons .. 1314

THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

The Earl of Lytton 1314

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for Papers relating to the affairs of South-Eastern Europe."—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

Lord Newton 1324
The Lord Bishop of Rochester 1330
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*The Marquess of Lansdowne*) .. 1335
Earl Spencer 1347

Motion by leave of the House withdrawn.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting 1350

House adjourned at a quarter before Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.—The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means .. 1351

NEW WRIT.—New Writ for the Borough of Brighton, in the room of Gerald Walter Erskine Loder, Esquire, Commissioner for executing the Office of Treasurer of the Exchequer of Great Britain and Lord High Treasurer of Ireland.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*) 1351

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill.—Read the third time and passed 1351

Clay Cross Railway (Abandonment) Bill; Morley Corporation Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1351

Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1351

STANDING ORDERS.—

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee:—

1. "That, in the case of the Worcestershire County Council (Bridges), Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for a Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

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2. "That, in the case of the Malvern Water, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the Cork Junction Railways Bill, the Standing Order 66 ought to be dispensed with, provided that the names of such of the Companies mentioned in Clause 60 of the Bill as have not in the meantime held meetings approving the Bill under the said Standing Order be struck out of the said Clause 60, and that proof be given to the Committee on the Bill that such of the said Companies whose names are not struck out of the said Clause have approved the Bill in the manner prescribed by the said Standing Order 66. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to 1351

Cork Junction Railways Bill.—Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill ordered to be read a second time 1352

Acton Sewage Bill.—Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1352

House-letting (Scotland) Bill.—Second Reading deferred from Tuesday next till Friday, 7th April 1352

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend and define the borrowing powers of the Urban District Council of Tralee, in the county of Kerry; and to enable them to borrow additional moneys; and for other purposes." [Tralee Urban District Council Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Metropolitan District Railway Company; and for other purposes." [Metropolitan District Railway Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Company to create and issue additional preference shares; and for other purposes." [Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords].] 1352

Tralee Urban District Council Bill [LORDS].—Metropolitan District Railway Bill [Lords]; Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1352

PETITIONS.

LICENSING ACTS.—Petition from Bath, for alteration of law: to lie upon the Table 1353

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petition from Rothesay, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1353

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LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Bournemouth; and Leicester; to lie upon the Table 1353

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SUNDAY) BILL.—Petition from Rubery, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1353

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition from Bethnal Green, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1353

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND) (INSPECTORS AND AUDITORS).—Return [presented 27th March] to be printed. [No. 100] 1353

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (ENGLAND).—Copy presented, of General Abstract of Marriages, Births, and Deaths registered in England and Wales in the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1353

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).—Copy presented of Treasury Minute, dated 25th March, 1905, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Navy Votes for the year 1904–5 to meet Excesses on other Navy Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 101] 1353

NAVAL WORKS ACTS, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1901, AND 1903.—Account presented, showing the amount of Money issued out of the Consolidated Fund; the mode in which it was provided; the amount and nature of the Securities created in respect thereof; the amount of the surplus of Income above Expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1896, and the amount of Money expended in pursuance of the Acts during the year ended the 31st March, 1904; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 102] 1354

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of the Fiftieth Annual Report on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland for 1904, and Fortieth Annual Report on Vaccination [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1354

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS.—Copy presented, of Report of the Crofters' Commission for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1354

ARMY.—Copy presented, of General Annual Return of the British Army for the year ending 30th September, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1354

FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCE.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th March; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 103.] 1354

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LABOUR.—Address for "Return showing the terms of the following resolutions embodied in the Final Protocol of the International conference on Labour in Factories and Mines, held at Berlin in 1890, namely, Section I. 1 (*a*), 1 (*b*), Section III. 1 to 7, Section IV. 1 to 5, Section V. 1 to 5; and the degree to which the recommendations in each of the said resolutions are now carried out in each of the countries represented at that conference."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*) 1354

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MINES (FATAL ACCIDENTS).—Address for "Return for each year from 1895 and for each inspection district of the number of Fatal Accidents, under each of the headings, Haulage, Machinery, and Sundries, in the Mining Statistics, which occurred to persons employed below ground in Mines to which the Coal Mines Regulation Acts apply, distinguishing the following age groups: 12 to 14, 14 to 16, 16 to 18, 18 to 20, and above 20."—(*Mr. Fenwick*) .. 1355

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF BERKS).—Return ordered, "comprising (1) the Reports made to the Charity Commissioners in the result of an Inquiry held in every parish wholly or partly within the county of Berks into Endowments, subject to the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1894, and appropriated in whole or in part for the benefit of that county, or of any part thereof, together with the Reports on those Endowments of the Commissioners for inquiring concerning Charities, 1818 to 1837; (2) a Digest showing, in the case of each such parish, whether any, and, if any what such Endowments are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners in the parish; and (3) an Index, alphabetically arranged, of names and places mentioned in the Reports."—(*Mr. Griffith Boscawen*) 1355

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR [EXPENSES].—Committee to consider of authorising the charge on the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the Public Trustee or his officers appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee and Executor, and of authorising the payment, out of Moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries and other expenses payable in pursuance of such Act (King's Recommendation signified), to-morrow.—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*) 1355

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

UNEMPLOYED HALF-PAY COLONELS WITH STAFF COLLEGE CERTIFICATES.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1355

COST OF BARRACKS BUILT UNDER THE ARMY CORPS SCHEME.—Question, Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1356

NAVAL LANDS (VOLUNTEERS) BILL.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1356

BOARD OF TRADE SHIPPING REGULATIONS—RE-APPOINTMENT OF SELECT COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1357

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS—SHIPPING OF OLD HORSES TO THE CONTINENT.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes .. 1357

RE-SALE OF OLD CHAINS FROM THE DOCKYARDS TO THE ADMIRALTY.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1358

PREMIUMS FOR CARRYING BOY SAILORS.—Question, Sir Charles Cayzer (Barrow-in-Furness); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1358

PRICES OF SUGAR IN GREAT BRITAIN AND SWITZERLAND.—Question, Mr. Platt-Higgins (Salford, N.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1359

REGULATIONS UNDER SECTION 85 OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.—Question, Mr. Maxwell (Dumfriesshire); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson .. 1359

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EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) FUND.—Question, Mr. Charles Douglas (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1360

MEMORANDUM ON EGYPTIAN BUDGET—ISSUE AS A PARLIAMENTARY PAPER.—Question, Master of Elibank; Answer, Earl Percy 1361

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS TEA ROOM.—Question, Mr. Partington (Derbyshire, High Peak); Answer, Lord Balcarres 1361

DELIVERY OF REGISTERED LETTERS—CASE OF MR. W. JOSLING.—Question, Mr. Louis Sinclair (Essex, Romford); Answer, Lord Stanley 1361

ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY MOTOR CARS AND MOTOR CYCLES.—Question, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answer, Mr. Akers-Douglas 1362

PRIVILEGE LEAVE AND FURLOUGH FOR OFFICERS OF THE INDIAN ARMY.—Question, Master of Elibank; Answer, Mr. Brodrick 1362

SCIENCE TRAINING OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1363

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

WATER SUPPLY TO HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS AT MALTA.—Questions, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) and Dr. Hutchinson (Sussex, Rye); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 1363

THE ADMIRALTY AND INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINES.—Question, Mr. Scott-Montagu (Hampshire, New Forest); Answers, Mr. Pretyman 1365

WELSH STEAM COAL SUPPLIES.—Questions, Mr. Scott-Montagu, and Mr. Coghill (Stoke-upon-Trent); Answers, Mr. Pretyman 1365

SHIPBUILDING BY THE GREAT POWERS.—Question, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1365

HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, S.) 1366

HIGHLAND LIGHT INFANTRY HEADQUARTERS.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1366

BELFAST ARMY FORAGE CONTRACTS.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1367

LIFE OF FIELD GUNS.—Questions, Captain Norton (Newington, W.), and Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answers, Mr Arnold-Forster 1368

RESERVE OF GUNS AND AMMUNITION.—Questions, Captain Norton; Answers, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1368

BEREHAVEN DEFENCES.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1369

VOLUNTEER RIFLE RANGES.—Question, Colonel Legge (St. George's, Hanover Square); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1370

GIBRALTAR—INSPECTION BY FOREIGNERS.—Question, Mr. Majendie (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1370

PROMOTION OF SECOND LIEUTENANTS.—Question, Colonel Long (Worcestershire, Evesham); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1370

ESSEX RIFLE RANGES.—Question, Sir Carne Rasch (Essex, Chelmsford); Answer Mr. Arnold-Forster 1371

MIDDLEBURY ELECTORS' REGISTER—SOLDIERS AS VOTERS.—Question, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 1371

GERMAN RAILWAY TO LAKE TCHAD—BRITISH RAILWAY TO NORTHERN NIGERIA.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1372

INDIAN POLICE FORCE RE-ORGANISATION. — Question, Sir Manchergee Bhownaggree (Bethnal, Green, N.E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1372

BRITISH EAST AFRICA—ZIONIST SETTLEMENT.—Question, Mr. Peel (Manchester, S.); Answer, The Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.) 1373

RUSSIA AND CONTRABAND OF WAR.—Question, Mr. Lawrence (Liverpool, Abercrombie); Answer, Earl Percy 1373

RUSSIAN FLEET OFF MADAGASCAR.—Question, Mr. Majendie; Answer, Earl Percy 1374

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT'S AGE GUARANTEE FOR WHISKY.—Question, Mr. Kilbride (Kildare, S.); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1374

OUTSTANDING EXCHEQUER BILLS.—Question, Mr. Purvis (Peterborough); Answer, Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1374

PROMOTION BY SENIORITY IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.) 1375

THE UNDERGROUND CABLE TO THE NORTH.—Question, Sir Andrew Agnew, Edinburgh, S.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1375

CITY OF LONDON AND THE LICENCING COMPENSATION FUND.—Question, Mr. Benn (Devonport); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1376

VALUATION FOR COMPENSATING PURPOSES OF LICENCED PREMISES.—Question, Mr. Lyell (Dorsetshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1376

METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Question, Mr. Fison (Yorkshire, W.R., Doncaster); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1376

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ROYAL COMMISSION ON LONDON LOCOMOTION.—Question, Sir Mancherjee Bhownaggree; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1377

APPROACHES TO PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Forde Ridley (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1377

LONDON POLICE AND ALIEN LANGUAGES.—Question, Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1378

CULTIVATION OF SUGAR BEET IN ENGLAND.—Question, Mr. Bright (Shropshire, Oswestry); Answer, The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, Hunts, Ramsey) 1378

WEATHER FORECASTS FOR FARMERS.—Questions, Mr. Spear (Devonshire, Tavistock) and General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest); Answers, Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes 1378

BOARD OF TRADE SHIPPING REGULATIONS—SELECT COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 1379

UNDERFED SCHOOL CHILDREN—JOHANNA STREET SCHOOL.—Question, Mr. Forde Ridley; Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 1380

ST. JOSEPH'S SCHOOL, NYMPHSFIELD.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.), Answer, Sir William Anson 1380

PRESS MARKS FOR THE MEMBERS' LIBRARIES.—Question, Mr. Herbert Robertson (Hackney, S.), Answer, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 1380

VENTILATION OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Question, Mr. Ernest Flower (Bradford, W.); Answer, Lord Balcarres 1381

SCOTTISH MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 1381

NEW SCOTTISH FISHERY BOARD CRUISER—THE "FREYA."—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1381

PROTECTION OF SCOTTISH FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1382

EXTRAORDINARY TRAFFIC ON ROADS.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.) and Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1382

IRISH EDUCATION BOARD—NEW RULES.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1383

CHARGE AGAINST A BORRISNOE EMERGENCY MAN.—Question, Mr. Kendal O'Brien (Tipperary, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1384

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1385

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MOUNTMELLICK PETTY SESSIONS CLERK.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1385

HEATHFIELD ESTATE, SLIGO.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1386

TIMAHOE EVICTED TENANT.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1386

IRISH NAMES AND ADDRESSES ON CARTS.—Questions, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.) and Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1386

CORE BOOTH ESTATE, COUNTY SLIGO.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1387

ENGLISH APPOINTMENTS TO IRISH POSTMASTERSHIPS.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answers, Lord Stanley 1387

UNPAID POST OFFICE LEARNERS IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Nannetti; Answers, Lord Stanley 1388

PORTRUSH HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1389

HOME AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE.—Questions, Colonel Welby (Taunton); Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1389

Scotch Education Bill.—Question, Sir Charles Renshaw (Renfrewshire, W.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1390

NEW BILLS.

Relief of Distress (Ireland) Bill.—"To make temporary provision for the supply of seed potatoes to occupiers and cultivators of land, and for other purposes relating to the Relief of Distress in Ireland," presented by Mr. Long; supported by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 127.] 1390

Infant Life Protection Act (1897) Amendment Bill.—"To amend The Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Spear; supported by Mr. Duke, Mr. Schwann, Mr. Hogg, Mr. Melville, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. Charles Allen, Sir James Fergusson, and Mr. Runciman; to be read a second time upon Thursday, April 6th, and to be printed. [Bill 128]. 1390

Local Government Act (1888) Amendment Bill.—"To amend The Local Government Act, 1888," presented by Mr. Spear; supported by Mr. Duke, Mr. Herbert Robertson, and Mr. Mildmay; to be read a second time upon Thursday, April 6th, and to be printed. [Bill 129.] 1390

False Statements (Companies) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to False Statements with respect to the Financial Position of Companies or other bodies," presented by Mr. Attorney-General; supported by the Lord Advocate, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, and Mr. Solicitor-General; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 130.] .. 1390

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Sale of Butter Bill.—" To amend the Law with regard to the Sale of Butter," presented by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes ; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Attorney-General ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 131.] 1390

Trade Marks Bill.—

Ordered, That the Committee on the Trade Marks Bill do consist of Mr. Blake, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Eve, Mr. Fison, Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Sir Walter Palmer, Sir Charles Renshaw, and Mr. Tillett.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the Quorum.—(*Mr. Fletcher Moulton.*) .. 1391

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR [EXPENSES].

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do resolve itself into a Committee to consider of authorising the charge on the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the Public Trustee or his officers appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee and Executor, and of authorising the payment, out of Moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries and other expenses payable in pursuance of such Act (King's Recommendation signified), to-morrow."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.*) 1391

Question put, and agreed to.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

Mr. McKenna (*Monmouthshire, N.*) 1392

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1393
Mr. McKenna 1394
Mr. Gibson Bowles (*Lynn Regis*) 1394
Major Seely (*Isle of Wight*) 1395

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2 added to the Bill.

Clause 3:—

Mr. Gibson Bowles 1395

Amendment proposed—

"In Clause 3, after the word 'powers,' to insert the words 'and the Treasury shall repay the money so borrowed, with interest not exceeding 5 per centum per annum out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund at a period not later than the next succeeding quarter to that in which the said moneys were borrowed.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

Mr. Austen Chamberlain 1397
Mr. Edmund Robertson (Dundee) 1397
Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 1398
Mr. Gibson Bowles 1398

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment, to be read the third time upon Thursday next.

SUPPLY.

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) .. 1398
Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs) 1421
Mr. Renwick (Newcastle-on-Tyne) 1424
Mr. Purvis (Peterborough) 1427

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'that' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in order to promote and increase the efficiency of the Volunteer Force, it is necessary to provide an additional number of rifle ranges easily accessible to the members of the different corps' instead thereof."—(*Mr. Renwick.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Sir Lees Knowles (Salford, W.) 1429
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 1431
Mr. Frederick Wilson (Norfolk, Mid.) 1434
Mr. Tuff (Rochester) 1435
Mr. Arnold-Forster 1435

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport) 1438

Main Question put, and agreed to.

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SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1905–6.—Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a number of Land Forces not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Captain Norton (*Newington, W.*) 1443

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, " That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 220,800, all ranks, be maintained for the said Service."—(*Captain Norton.*)

Sir Carne Rasch (*Essex, Chelmsford*) 1446
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 1448
Captain Jessel (*St. Pancras, S.*) 1451
Mr. Soares (*Devonshire, Barnstaple*) 1455
Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 1455

And, it being half-past Seven of the Clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress ; to sit again To-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

London Port and Docks Commission Bill [BY ORDER].—Second Reading deferred till Thursday, 13th April (Evening Sitting).

FISCAL RETALIATION.

Mr. Joseph Walton (*Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley*) 1457
Mr. Moulton (*Cornwall, Launceston*) 1466

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That, in view of the declarations made by the Prime Minister, this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of Fiscal Retaliation."—(*Mr. Joseph Walton.*)

Mr. Lambton (*Durham, S.E.*) 1476

Amendment proposed—

" At the end, to add the words ' In as far as it is destructive of Parliamentary control over taxation.' "—(*Mr. Lambton.*)

Question proposed, " That those words be there added."

Mr. Lloyd-George (Carnarvon Boroughs) 1479
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 1483
Mr. Asquith (Fifeshire, E.) 1491
Mr. Thornton (Clapham) 1494
Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey) 1496
Mr. Elliot (Durham) 1498

Question put, and negatived.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, *Nemine Contradicente*, That, in view of the declarations made by the Prime Minister, this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of Fiscal Retaliation.

Lands Valuation (Scotland) Bill. [SECOND READING].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That the Bill be now read a second time."

And, it being Midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed, upon Friday, 14th April 1502

Closing of Licensed Premises (Christmas Day) (Ireland) Bill.—Read a second time and committed for this day 1502

THE NON-ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS.

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) 1502

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House do now adjourn."—*—(Sir A. Acland-Hood.)*

Mr. Churchill (Oldham) 1503
Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs) 1504
Mr. Lough (Islington, W.) 1504
Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.) 1505
Mr. Ellis Griffith (Anglesey) 1505
Mr. Tennant (Berwickshire) 1505
Mr. John Burns (Battersea) 1506
Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe.) 1507
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 1508
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) 1508

Adjourned at half after Twelve o'Clock.

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HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Accrington Corporation Bill; Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill. As amended, to be considered To-morrow 1509

Wrexham Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time .. 1509

London United Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1509

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill; Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 1) Bill; Hitchin and District Gas Bill; Graet Northern Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1509

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS, AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF ((SCOTLAND) ACT, 1896.—Petition from Morayshire, for continuance; to lie upon the Table 1509

DOGS (PROTECTION) BILL.—Petition from London and other places, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1509

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Kilbarchan; and Pollokshaws; to lie upon the Table 1509

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Ashton-under-Lyne; Exmouth; Leeds; Leicester (two); National British Women's Temperance Association; and Skipton; to lie upon the Table. 1509

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from Morpeth, against; to lie upon the Table 1509

MILK DEPOTS (LONDON) BILL.—Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1509

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.—Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table 1509

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.—Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1510

TRADE MARKS BILL.—Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1501

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3331 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1510

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).—Copy presented, of Postal Agreement for an exchange of Money Orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Russia, dated the 17th–29th October, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1510

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).—Return presented, relativethere to, [ordered 28th February; *Mr. McCrae*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 104.] 1510

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) RETURNS.—Copy presented, of Returns of Local Taxation in Ireland for the year 1903–4 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1510

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT (IRELAND), 1877.—Copy presented, of an Order in Council, dated 22nd February, 1905, giving effect to Rules of Court under The Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland), 1877 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1510

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.—Copy presented, of Memorandum by the Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into the Law relating to Compensation for Injuries to Workmen, on Foreign and Colonial Laws relating to Compensation for injuries to Workmen. Vol. III. Supplementary Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1510

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FUND.—Return ordered, "relating to the Post Office Savings Banks Fund, giving—

The amount of Consols (including Reduced and New Three per cent. Stocks) bought and sold for cash, and the cash paid and received for the same, for each year since its establishment; and the average price of these transactions.

The amount of Consols held by the National Debt Commissioners for the Fund at the 31st day of December, 1904; and

The amount of Consols (including Reduced and New Three per cent. Stocks) cancelled in exchange for Terminable Annuities, stating, where applicable, the date of cancellation, the cash value of the stock at that date, the amount of the Annuity, the term of its currency, and the rate of interest at which it was set up."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*) 1511

COAL IMPORTS (FRANCE).—Return ordered, "showing the quantity of Coal imported into France from Germany, Belgium, Holland, the United Kingdom, and other sources in each of the years 1895–1904, distinguishing separately imports by sea and imports by land."—(*Sir Thomas Wrightson.*) 1511

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Training College for Elementary School Teachers—Grant to Hereford Training College.—Question, Sir James Rankin (Herefordshire, Leominster); Answer, Sir William Anson 1511

Wreck of the "Kyber"—Efficiency of Coast Guard Service.—Question, Mr. Soares (Devonshire, Barnstaple); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1512

Irish Lightships Adrift.—Question, Major Jameson (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1512

Recruiting for Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.—Question, Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1513

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.—Question, Sir John Colomb; Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1513

Petition of Women Sorters at the Post Office Savings Bank Department. —Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Lord Stanley 1513

Telegraphists and Postal Duties.—Question, Mr. Bell; Answer, Lord Stanley 1514

New Post Office at Birkenhead.—Question, Sir Elliott Lees (Birkenhead); Answer, Lord Stanley 1514

Wages of Post Office Engineers.—Question, Mr. Cawley (Lancashire, Prestwich); Answer, Lord Stanley 1514

Post Office—Alteration of Official Pay Day.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, Lord Stanley 1515

Rate Demand Notes—Particulars of Amounts Required for Specific Purposes. — Question, Mr. Layland-Barrett (Devonshire, Torquay), Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1516

Salaries of Irish National School Teachers.—Question, Mr. P. J. O'Brien (Tipperary, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1516

Evicted Tenants on the White Estate, near Bantry.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1516

Catholic Clerks in the Veterinary Branch of the Irish Agricultural Department.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1517

Clifden Harbour Improvements.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1517

Arrest of the Owa of Ilesha.—Question, Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1517

Company's Service Rifle—Cost if made in Government Factories and by Private Contractors.—Question, Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1518

Cost of Ammunition.—Question, Sir James Woodhouse; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1518

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

SOLDERLESS TINNING SYNDICATE.—Admiralty Circulars.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 1519

EXPENDITURE ON H.M.S. "Sultan."—Question, Mr. Gibson Bowles (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1518

HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty), and Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answers, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1520

MILITARY PEAT MOSS CONTRACTS AT BELFAST.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1520

TINNED RATIONS IN THE EGYPTIAN AND SOUDAN CAMPAIGNS.—Question, Captain Norton; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1521

EMERGENCY RATIONS—SOLDERLESS TINNING.—Question, Captain Norton, Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.), and Mr. Maconochie (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1521

MILITIA OFFICER'S TRAVELLING EXPENSES.—Question, Colonel Llewellyn (Somersetshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1522

ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, SANDHURST.—Question, Mr. Charles Allen (Gloucestershire, Stroud); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1523

ARMY CLOTHING WASTAGE.—Question, Mr. Lyell (Dorsetshire, E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield) 1523

THE TRANSVAAL WAR LOAN.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara, and Mr. Gibson Bowles; Answers, The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 1524

HALIFAX AND ESQUIMALT DEFENCES.—Question, Mr. Charles Devlin (Galway); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1524

COMMISSIONERS FOR REDUCTION OF THE NATIONAL DEBT.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara; Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) 1525

PENSION REGULATIONS.—Questions, Dr. Macnamara; Answers, The Financial Secretary of the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.) 1525

LICENSING REGULATIONS.—Questions, Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's) 1526

METROPOLITAN PNEUMATIC DESPATCH COMPANY'S BILL.—Questions, Sir Joseph Dimsdale (London) and Mr. Benn (Devonport); Answers, The Postmaster General (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton) 1527

POSTAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH CANADA.—Question, Mr. Charles Devlin; Answer, Lord Stanley 1528

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Foreign Officers in the British Mercantile Marine.—Question, Mr. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 1529

Erosion of the English Coast.—Question, Mr. Marks; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1529

Motor-Car Speeds in the Parks.—Questions, Mr. Scott Montagu (Hampshire, New Forest); Answers, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) .. 1529

North Sea Fisheries Scientific Investigation.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) .. 1530

Long IslandMedical Officer of Health.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, Mr. Scott Dickson 1350

Absconding Newry Rate Collector.—Questions, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1531

Irish Department of Agriculture—English and Scotch Officials.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill and Mr. John Redmond (Waterford); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) .. 1532

Irish Public Loan Fund Board.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1533

Donegal Farm Prize Scheme.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill; Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1534

Galway Guardians and Education Rule No. 127b.—Questions, Mr. Charles Devlin and Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1534

Castlederg and Killeter No. 2 Dispensary District.—Question, Mr. Hemphill (Tyrone, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1535

County Kerry Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1536

Caldbeck Estate, Queen's County.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1536

De Freyne Estates.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1537

Kerry Fair Rent Appeals.—Question, Mr. Flavin (Kerry, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1537

Trinity College, Tenantry.—Question, Mr. Flavin; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1537

Mahon Estate, County Galway.—Question, Mr. Roche (Galway, E.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1538

Dual Duties in the Dublin Post Office.—Question, Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answer, Lord Stanley 1538

DUAL WORKING IN IRISH POST OFFICES.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Lord Stanley 1538

DUBLIN TELEGRAPH CLERKS' GRIEVANCES.—Question, Mr. Nannetti; Answer, Lord Stanley 1539

PUBLIC SERVANTS AND VACCINATION.—Questions, Mr. Weir; Answers, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1539

HIGHLAND REGIMENTS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 1540

COMPENSATION FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TOWN HOLDINGS.—Question, Mr. Benn; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1540

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL.—Question, Mr. Barran (Leeds, N.); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1541

THE FISCAL RETALIATION RESOLUTION.—Questions, Mr. Churchill (Oldham), Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs), Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1541

NEW BILL.

Education (Provision of Meals) Bill.—"To amend The Education Act, 1902," presented by Mr. Arthur Henderson; supported by Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Bell, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Broadhurst, Sir John Gorst, Mr. Thomas Richards, Dr. Macnamara, and Mr. Keir Hardie; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 11th April, and to be printed. [Bill 132.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1905-6.—Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a number of Land Forces not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Sir John Colomb (Great Yarmouth) 1543
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 1553

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 211,300, all ranks, be maintained for the said Service."—(*Major Seely.*)

Mr. Claude Lowther (Cumberland, Eskdale) 1559
Mr. Guest (Plymouth) 1562
Sir J. Fergusson (Manchester, N.E.) 1567

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Sir J. Dickson-Poynder (Wiltshire, Chippenham) 1568
The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) .. 1571
Mr. Labouchere (Northampton) 1584
Mr. Beckett (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby) 1587
Mr. Markham (Notts., Mansfield) 1589
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield) 1590
Mr. Ainsworth (Argyllshire) 1591

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 207 ; Noes, 258. (Division List No. 90.)

And, it being half-past Six of the Clock, the Chairman, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 7 of the Army Estimates.

Question put, " That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 268, ; Noes, 161. (Division List No. 91.)

Question put, " That a sum, not exceeding £4,630,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Supplies and Clothing, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 259 ; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 92.)

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow ; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

And, there being no further Business set down for the Afternoon Sitting, Mr. Speaker left the Chair until this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

South Oxfordshire Water and Gas Bill [By Order].—Read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert provisions for the compulsory supply of water in bulk by meter for agricultural and trade purposes at a reasonable rate and under reasonable conditions, provided that such supply does not entail any further increase of capital than that provided for in the Bill.—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

Free Imports and Shipping Trade.

Mr. Osmond Williams (Merionethshire) 1608
Colonel Denny (Kilmarnock Burghs) 1612

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, grave injury would be caused to the shipping industry and to other industries dependent thereon by the adoption of the changes in the existing fiscal system proposed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham."—(*Mr. Osmond Williams.*)

Mr. David MacIver (Liverpool, Kirkcaldy) 1619
Mr. Rea (Gloucester) 1625
Mr. Charles McArthur (Liverpool, Exchange) 1629
Mr. Renwick (Newcastle-on-Tyne) 1632
Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.) 1635
Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury) 1641
Mr. J. A. Pease (Essex, Saffron Walden) 1645

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, grave injury would be caused to the shipping industry and to other industries dependent thereon by the adoption of the changes in the existing fiscal system proposed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham.—(*Mr. Osmond Williams.*)

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the charge upon the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the Public Trustee or his officers appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee and Executor, and to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries and other expenses payable in pursuance of such Act.—(*Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*)

Resolution to be reported this day 1647

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

The Parliamentary Secretary of the Treasury (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) 1647

Motion made and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Mr. Runciman (Dewsbury) 1647
Major Seely (Isle of Wight) 1648

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at Seven minutes after Twelve o'Clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1905.

EARL OF KENMARE.—Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Tuesday last, that the right of the Earl of Kenmare to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such report has been made, and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland 1649

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.].—A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee 1649

Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.].—Witnesses ordered to attend the Select Committee 1649

Malvern Water Bill; Leven's Patent—(Petition for Bill). Examiners' Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next 1649

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.].—Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments 1649

Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [H.L.].—The CHAIRMAN of COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on the 20th instant discharged, and Bill committed 1649

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1649

Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners 1649

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AFRICA, No. 3 (1905).—Memorandum on the state of the African Protectorates administered under the Foreign Office (in continuation of "Africa, No. 10, 1904") 1650

ARMY.—General Annual Report of the British Army, for the year ended 30th September, 1904 1650

POST OFFICE.—Postal agreement for an exchange of money orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Russia, dated the 17th (29th) October, 1904 1650

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).—Memorandum by the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign and Colonial laws relating to compensation for injuries to workmen. Vol. III. Supplementary Appendix .. 1650

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND).—Return of the areas, population, and valuation of counties, burghs, and parishes in Scotland 1650

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).—Returns for the year 1903–1904. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 1650

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT (IRELAND), 1877.—Order in Council, dated 22nd February, 1905, giving effect to Rules of Court. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1650

NEW BILL.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the Public Health Acts was presented by the Lord Hylton; read 1^{a}; and to be printed. (No. 39.) 1650

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting.

THE BRITISH MISSION TO THE AMEER.

Lord Reay 1651
The Under Secretary of State for India (The Marquess of Bath) 1651

Service of Militiamen Bill [H.L.].—[SECOND READING.]—Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

The Under Secretary of State for War (The Earl of Donoughmore) .. 1651

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

The Earl of Wemyss 1657

Amendment moved—

"To leave out the word 'now.' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

The Duke of Bedford 1660
The Marquess of Ripon 1664
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (The Marquess of Lansdowne) 1671
Viscount Hampden 1677
Lord Raglan 1682
Lord Saltoun 1686
Earl Spencer 1687
The Earl of Donoughmore 1689

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 69 ; Not Contents, 21.

Bill read 2^{a} accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

Prevention of Corruption Bill [H.L.].—Read 3^{a} (according to order) ; and Amendment (Privilege) made ; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons .. 1691

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Married Women's Property Act (1882) Amendment Bill [H.L.]; PRIZE COURTS BILL [H.L.]; NAVAL PRIZE BILL [H.L.].—Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons 1691

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill.—Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; then (Standing Order No. xxxix having been suspended) Bill read 2ª; Committee negatived; Bill read 3ª, and passed 1693

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

The following Bill received the Royal Assent:—Consolidation Fund (No. 1) 1693

Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill.—Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to 1693

House adjourned at Five minutes before Twelve o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 30TH MARCH, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill—Lords Amendments considered and agreed to 1693

Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment) Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1693

South Metropolitan Gas Bill.—Read the third time, and passed. [New Title] 1693

South Suburban Gas Bill.—As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1693

Accrington Corporation Bill (BY ORDER).—Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill (by Order). As amended, considered; to be read the third time 1693

Malvern Water Bill.—"To confirm and legalise the construction of certain waterworks constructed by the Urban District Council of Malvern for the supply of Water to their district; to authorise the Council to construct additional waterworks for the supply thereof; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time .. 1693

Birmingham Corporation Bill.—Brentwood Gas Bill; Great Berkhampstead Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1694

Croydon Gas Bill.—North Sussex Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table 1694

Nottingham and Retford Railway Bill.—Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed 1694

Message from the Lords.—That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to regulate Whale Fisheries in Scotland." [Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [Lords].

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for uniting the ecclesiastical parish of Holy Trinity, Portsea, with one or more contiguous parishes, and for authorising and carrying into effect an agreement between the Bishop of Winchester and the Admiralty for the sale of the church and vicarage house of Holy Trinity, Portsea, and for the disposal of the purchase-money and the endowments of the benefice; and for other purposes connected therewith." [Holy Trinity, Portsea, Bill [Lords].] 1694

Holy Trinity, Portsea, Bill [Lords].—Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 1694

PETITIONS.

Juvenile Smoking Bill.—Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1694

Local Authorities (Qualification of Women) Bill.—Petitions in favour: from Exmouth (four); Leicester; Liverpool; and members of the London County Council; to lie upon the Table 1694

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Petitions against; from Earl's Court; Hayle; Newport (Essex); and Southsea; to lie upon the Table 1695

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Sunday) Bill.—Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table 1695

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Wines Imported.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th February; *Mr. Gibbs*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 105.] 1695

Aliens—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 13th March; *Mr. Cochrane*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 106.] 1695

Navy (Volunteer Reserve).—Copy presented, of the Regulations, the Civil and Administrative Rules, and the Acts providing for the Constitution of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1695

Local Government (Scotland).—Copy presented of Return of the areas, Population, and Valuation of Counties, Burghs, and Parishes in Scotland [by Command], to lie upon the Table 1695

Africa (No. 3, 1905).—Copy presented, of Memorandum on the state of the African Protectorates adminstered under the Foreign Office [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1695

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

PUBLICATION OF THE "NEW IRELAND REVIEW."—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1695

APPOINTMENT OF MISS DUFFY AS CROCHET LACE TEACHER AT MONAGHAN.—Question, Mr. McKean (Monaghan, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1696

FARMS FOR EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1696

REINSTATEMENT OF LORD LANSDOWNE'S EVICTED TENANTS AT LUGGACURRAN.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1697

TENANT PURCHASERS IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1697

SCIENCE TRAINING CLASSES IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answers, Mr. Walter Long 1697

SITTING OF SUB-LAND COMMISSION AT BANTRY.—Question, Mr. Gilhooly (Cork County, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1698

LEGALISING OF COLONIAL MARRIAGES IN THIS COUNTRY.—Question, General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1699

ISSUE OF TRANSVAAL LOAN.—Question, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1699

NEGOTIATIONS WITH COLONIES ON SUBJECT OF RETALIATION, ETC., PREVIOUS TO 1902.—Question, Sir Wilfred Lawson (Cornwall, Camborne); Answer, Mr. Lyttelton 1700

LOST DOGS REMOVED BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1700

FREE RAILWAY PASSES FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1700

ACCIDENT TO LIVE STOCK ON MIDLAND AND GREAT WESTERN RAILWAYS—FAILURE TO HOLD BOARD OF TRADE INQUIRY—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1701

RAILWAYS EMPLOYMENT (PREVENTION OF ACCIDENTS) ACT, 1900—RULES.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1701

BRITISH TRADE WITH CANADA AND NEW ZEALAND.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield Central); Answer, Mr. Bonar Law 1702

PERTHSHIRE MOTOR CAR ORDER—OMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BRIDGE OF EARN.—Question, Mr. Buchanan (Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1703

LIFT ACCIDENT IN A CITY HOTEL—PRECAUTIONS FOR PUBLIC SAFETY.—Question, Sir Thos. Dewar (Tower Hamlets, St. George's); Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1703

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MOTOR CAR DRIVERS—CONVICTIONS FOR FAILURE TO PRODUCE LICENCES.—Question, Sir Thos. Dewar; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1704

CONDITION OF ROADS IN REGENT'S PARK.—Question, Mr. Bryce (Aberdeen, S.); Answer, Lord Balcarres 1705

ADOPTION OF RECOMMENDATION OF THE BRADFORD COMMITTEE'S REPORT.—Question, Sir James Woodhouse (Huddersfield); Answer, Lord Stanley .. 1705

ELECTRO PEAT COAL MANUFACTURE.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1705

TRANSIT IN IRELAND—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1706

BEET SUGAR CULTIVATION AND MANUFACTURE IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1706

MOUNTMILLICK PETTY SESSIONS—TOWN COMMISSIONERS AND FINES FOR DRUNKENNESS.—Question, Mr. Delany; Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1707

CASE OF POLICE *v.* JOHN MUNNELLY.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1707

REINSTATEMENT OF EVICTED TENANTS ON THE COYNE ESTATE, BELMULLET.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1707

IRISH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — UNEXPENDED BALANCES. — Mr. William Moore (Antrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1708

APPOINTMENT OF MANAGER OF LISLEA NO. 1 (NATIONAL SCHOOL).—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1708

SALE OF SOLDIERS' EFFECTS—AMOUNT REALISED SINCE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.—Question, Mr. Kearley (Devonport); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1709

ARMY BOOT CONTRACT—FAIR WAGES CLAUSE.—Question, Mr. Bell and Mr. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1709

EXPENDITURE UNDER THE MILITARY WORKS ACTS.—Question, Mr. Buchanan Perthshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster.. 1710

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

NAVAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT—ENLISTMENT OF YOUTHS.—Question, Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) 1711

VEGETABLE RATIONS—THE NATIONAL ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.—Question Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.), and Mr. Maconochie (Aberdeenshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1712

ADMIRALTY SURGEON AT BELMULLET.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Mayo, N.); Answer, Mr. Pretyman 1713

THE NEW RIFLE—RE-ARMING THE INFANTRY.—Question, Captain Norton (Newington, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) 1714

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SALE OF MILITARY BUILDINGS—COMPTROLLER-GENERAL'S INQUIRIES.—Question, Captain Horton; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1714

GERMAN EMPEROR'S VISIT TO GIBRALTAR.—Question, Sir George Bartley (Islington, N.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1715

EMPLOYMENT OF COLONIAL TROOPS—ALLOCATION OF CHARGES.—Question, Sir Brampton Gurdon; Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1715

SALISBURY PLAIN WORKS.—Question, Mr. Charles Hobhouse (Bristol, E.); Answer, Mr. Arnold-Forster 1716

INDIA—THE PLAGUE INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. J. H. Lewis (Flint Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) 1716

ARRESTS ON INSUFFICIENT GROUNDS.—Question, Mr. Lough (Islington, W.); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Akers Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine) 1717

HOME OFFICE AND PETITIONS FOR THE ROYAL PREROGATIVE OF MERCY. —Question,s Captain Norton, and Mr. Lough; Answer, Mr. Akers Douglas 1718

SWINE FEVER IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, The President of the Board of Agriculture (Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, Hunts, Ramsey) 1719

BUILDING BY-LAWS IN RURAL DISTRICTS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central) 1720

UNDERFED SCHOOL CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil); Answer, Mr. Gerald Balfour 1720

IRISH NATIONAL HOLIDAY—RAILWAY TRAFFIC LIMITATIONS.—Question, Mr. John O'Donnell (Mayo, S.); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars) 1721

ANNUNCIATORS IN THE DINING ROOMS AND TEA ROOMS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—Question, Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.,); Answer, Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley) 1721

ADMIRALTY COURTYARD, WHITEHALL.—Question, General Laurie (Pembroke and Haverfordwest); Answer, Lord Balcarres 1721

MOTOR ENGINES FOR FISHING BOATS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton) 1722

MOTOR TRAFFIC—AYRSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Scott Dickson 1722

LISBELLAW PETTY SESSIONS APPEAL.—Question, Mr. Jordan (Fermanagh, S.); Answer, The Attorney General for Ireland (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.) 1722

THE KINGSTON ESTATE.—Question, Mr. William Abraham (Cork Co., N.E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) .. 1724

BANGOR (COUNTY DOWN) IMPROVEMENT BILL.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1724

KILRUSH HARBOUR CREEK.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1725

OWENMORE RIVER DRAINAGE.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1725

SUGAR BEETROOT CULTIVATION IN IRELAND.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1726

IRISH NATIONAL EDUCATION—EFFECT OF RULE 127 (b).—Questions, Mr. O'Dowd, and Mr. Thomas O'Donnell (Kerry, W.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long .. 1726

CUSACK ESTATE, COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1727

ORGANISERS' SCIENCE CLASSES IN COUNTY MEATH.—Question, Mr. Sheehy (Meath, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1728

AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTORS IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1729

IRISH CRIMINAL PROCEDURE—REVISION OF SENTENCES.—Question, Mr Swift MacNeill; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1729

POLICE CONSTABLE REDDY OF MARYBOROUGH.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1730

LONGFORD EXTRA POLICE FORCE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1731

COLONEL KING-HARMAN'S LONGFORD ESTATE.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1731

EVICTED TENANTS IN COUNTY LONGFORD.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Walter Long 1732

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL BUILDING PLANS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answers, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W) 1732

LOUGH NEAGH DRAINAGE TRUSTEES.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1733

PORTRUSH HARBOUR.—Question, Mr. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Victor Cavendish 1733

DEFENCE OF THE EMPIRE.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.) 1734

THE ALIENS BILL.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1734

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Sea Encroachment on the English Coast.—Question, Colonel Lucas (Suffolk, Lowestoft); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1735

The Unemployed.—Questions, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. J. H. Lewis, and Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); and Mr. Nannetti (Dublin, College Green); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1735

Scottish Bills.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour .. 1736

The Colonies and Fiscal Reform.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1736

Motions for Adjournment.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe), Mr. Swift MacNeill, and Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman (Stirling Burghs); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1737

Underfed School Children.—Questions, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle, Mr. J. F. Hope (Sheffield, Brightside), and Dr. Marnamara (Camberwell, N.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1738

Scottish Church Dispute.—Questions, Mr. Thomas Shaw (Hawick Burghs), and Mr. Findlay (Lancashire, N.E.); Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1738

Tariffs and Shipping Debate.—Question, Mr. Lough; Answer, Mr. Speaker .. 1739

Unanswered Questions.—Questions, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.), Mr. Swift MacNeill, Mr. John Redmond, and Mr. MacVeagh; Answers, Mr. A. J. Balfour 1739

Selection (Standing Committees).—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added the following Fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill:—Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. James Henry Campbell, Mr. Long, Mr. Field, Mr. Money, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Bond, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien, Sir John Colomb, Mr. Thomas Herbert Robertson, Mr. Thomas Lorimer Corbett, Mr. Charles Craig, and Mr. Lonsdale.
Report to lie upon the Table 1740

Selection (Standing Committees).—Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from serving on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Trades Unions and Trade Disputes Bill:—Mr. Attorney-General.

Report to lie upon the Table 1741

NEW BILLS.

Merchant Shipping (Scottish Trawlers) Bill.—"To apply sections four hundred and thirteen to four hundred and sixteen of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1984, to Scotland," presented by the Lord-Advocate; supported by Mr. Bonar Law; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 133.] 1741

Congested Districts (Scotland) Bill.—"To amend the provisions of The Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897, as to the style and title of the Commissioners, the execution of deeds by them, and the application of the Fund constituted by the said Act," presented by the Lord-Advocate; supported by Mr. Cochrane; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 134.] 174

Summary Jurisdiction (Children) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to the hearing by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction of charges and applications relating to Children," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; supported by Sir John Gorst, Mr. Samuel Smith, Lord Edmund Talbot, and Mr. Tennant; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 135.] .. 1741

Consolidated Fund (No 1) Bill.—[Third Reading.]—Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 1742
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 1743
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) 1744
Mr. John Campbell (Armagh, S.) 1746
Sir Harry Seton-Karr (St. Helens) 1766
Mr. Herbert Samuel (Yorkshire, Cleveland) 1769
Mr. McCrae, Edinburgh, E. 1770
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington) 1772
Mr. Sydney Buxton (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1776
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 1779
Sir Robert Reid (Dumfries Burghs) 1783
Mr. Spear (Devonshire, Tavistock) 1787
Mr. Geo. White (Norfolk, N.W.) 1789
Mr. Kearley (Devonport) 1793
Mr. Duke (Plymouth) 1795
The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) .. 1795
Dr. Macnamara (Camberwell, N.) 1797
The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Sir William Anson, Oxford University) 1801
Mr. Yoxall (Nottingham, W.) 1803

And, it being Seven of the clock, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put that Question.

The House divided:—Ayes, 248; Noes, 190. (Division List No. 93.)

Bill read the third time, and passed.

Supply [29th March].—Resolutions reported.

rmy Estimates, 1905–6.

1. "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,630,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Supplies and Clothing, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution :—

Mr. Courtenay Warner (*Staffordshire, Lichfield*) 1808

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '221,300,' and insert '211,300.'"—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That '221,300' stand part of the said Resolution."

Sir Elliott Lees (*Birkenhead*) 1809

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

Further Consideration of Second Resolution deferred till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

Message from the Lords.—That they have agreed to—Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, without Amendment 1810

Supply [29th March] Report.

Order read, for Further consideration of Second Resolution, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,630,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Supplies and Clothing, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 1810

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£4,630,000,' and insert '£4,629,800.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That '£4,630,000' stand part of the said Resolution."

Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) 1813
Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 1814
The Financial Secretary to the War Office (*Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield*) 1814
Mr. Theodore Taylor (*Lancashire, Redcliffe*) 1818
Mr. Bell 1819
Mr. Benn (*Devonport*) 1820
Mr. Cawley (*Lancashire, Prestwich*) 1821

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 176 ; Noes, 137. (Division List No. 94.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. Courtenay Warner 1824
Mr. Whitley (Halifax) 1826
Mr. Barran (Leeds, W.) 1826
Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.) 1827
Mr. Bromley Davenport 1828
Mr. Levy (Leicestershire, Loughborough) 1830
Mr. Lyell (Dorsetshire, E.) 1830
Sir A. Hayter (Walsall) 1830

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 215 ; Noes, 163. (Division List No. 95.)

And, it being after Eleven of the Clock, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, proceeded to put forth with the Questions necessary to dispose of the Report of Vote A of the Army Estimates.

" That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

To which an Amendment had been proposed [30th March], to leave out " 221,300," and insert " 211,300."—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question put, " That ' 221,300 ' stand part of the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 230 ; Noes, 173. (Division List No. 96.)

Question put, " That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided :—Ayes, 228 ; Noes, 155. (Division List No. 97.)

Resolution, which upon March 23rd was reported from the Committee of Supply, and which was then agreed to by the House, read, as followeth—

" That 129,000 officers, seamen, and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, including 20,211 Royal Marines."

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army ; and that Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster, Mr. Pretyman, and Mr. Bromley Davenport do prepare and bring it in.

Army (Annual) Bill.—" To provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army," presented accordingly, and read the first time ; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 136.].

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Marine Insurance Bill.—[Second Reading].—Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Caldwell (Lanarkshire, Mid.) 1843

Message to attend the Lords Commission.

The House went; and, being returned,

Mr. Speaker reported the Royal Assent to Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act, 1905 1844

Marine Insurance Bill.—Question again proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Mr. Caldwell 1844
The Attorney General (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs) 1845

And, it being Midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Public Trustee and Executor [Expenses].—Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the charge upon the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the Public Trustee or his officers appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee and Executor, and to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries and other expenses payable in pursuance of such Act."

Resolution agreed to 1845

Nurses Registration Committee.—Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses.

Ordered, That Dr. Robert Ambrose, Major Kenneth Balfour, Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Dr. Hutchinson, Mr. Mount, Lord Morpeth, Mr. Pierpoint, Mr. Tennant, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, and Sir John Batty Tuke be members of the Select Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, that Five be the quorum.—*(Sir A. Acland-Hood.)* 1846

Adjourned at four minutes after Twelve o'clock.

End of Table of Contents to Volume CXLIII.

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION)

IN THE

SIXTH SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE
UNITED KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, IN THE
FIFTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

THIRD VOLUME OF SESSION.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 15*th March*, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

GREAT NORTHERN (IRELAND) AND MIDLAND RAILWAYS BILL.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert the following clauses—

The Midland Company shall, within three months after the expiration of each calendar year, prepare and forward to the Board of Trade a return showing with respect to the Londonderry section—

(1) The capital expenditure made by them for the period covered by the return.

(2) The receipts from traffic of all descriptions, the proportionate receipts in respect of over-sea traffic being estimated where actual figures are not ascertained.

(3) The expenses incurred in working the railway, divided under the heads prescribed in Table No. 12 of the First Schedule to The Regulation of Railways Act, 1868, general or other charges applicable to the whole of the Midland Company's system being estimated.

(4) A return of working stock as prescribed by Table No. 6 of the said schedule.

(5) A mileage statement as prescribed by Table No. 14 of the said schedule.

(6) A train mileage statement as prescribed by Table No. 15 of the said schedule.

The first return made under this section shall cover the period of eighteen months ending on the thirty-first day of December, one thousand nine hundred and six.

The annual returns required from the company under Section 9 of The Regulation of Railways Act, 1871, and Section 32 of The Railway and Canal Traffic Act, 1888, shall distinguish separately the statistics relating to the Londonderry section, such figures as are not actually ascertained being estimated by the Midland Company.—(*Mr. Lough.*)

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A).

Mr. AGG-GARDNER reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned till Friday, at a quarter past Eleven o'clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

FAIR RENT COURTS.

Petitions for establishment; from Hackney; and Woolwich; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Clifton; and West Bristol; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 13th March, 1905, granting to Walter James Cox, Sorting Clerk and Telegraphist, Coventry, a retiring allowance under the Act [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158b]; referred to the Committee on the Bill.

ARMY (IMPERIAL YEOMANRY).

Copy presented, of Training Return of Imperial Yeomanry for 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Belfast Reformatory and Industrial Schools—Reduction of Capitation Grant.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the Belfast Corporation proposes to reduce the capitation grant of the local reformatory and industrial schools from 2s. 6d. to 2s.; and, if so, whether he will take steps to prevent its being adopted, more especially as the existent grant involves an extra rate of only one-eighth of a penny in the £.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Government has no information that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. An agreement by a local public body to contribute towards the support of children in reformatory and industrial schools is made with the managers of these institutions and does not come in any way before the Executive for approval, nor has the Executive any jurisdiction to interfere in the direction suggested in the Question.

Water Supply of the Country.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the alleged prospect of a general failure of the water supply of the country; and whether the matter is engaging the attention of His Majesty's Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Grant Lawson.*) There does not appear to be any prospect of a general failure of the water supply of the country. There was a deficiency of rainfall during the year 1904, and it was continued during the first two months of the present year. This has caused a shortage of water in some parts of the country where the supply is obtained from superficial sources; but the rain of the last few weeks may be expected to replenish these sources.

Damage to Country Roads by Heavy Motor Traffic.

MR. WILLIAM KESWICK (Surrey, Epsom): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the damage done to country roads by reason of the increase in heavy motor and similar traffic, and to the consequent increase in the local rates which the local authorities have to raise for the purpose of repairing such roads;

and whether he will consider the expediency of appointing a Commission to inquire and report whether such local authorities should not be relieved to some, and, if so, to what, extent from such extra expenses.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) It is no doubt the case that traffic of the kind referred to in the Question may do damage to country roads, and some complaints to this effect have been made to the Local Government Board. It would, however, be very difficult to ascertain to what extent the cost of road maintenance is directly attributable to this traffic, and I could not undertake to recommend the appointment of a Commission, as suggested.

The Clarke Estate, County Cork.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state to whom the untenanted land acquired by the Estates Commissioners on the Clarke Estate, county Cork, has been allocated; and whether, after provision is made for the evicted tenants on the estate, preference will be given to the claims of evicted tenants in the immediate neighbourhood who are unable to obtain possession of their former holdings from the present occupiers.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Land Commission have no information as to the alleged proceedings to recover rent on the estate referred to, and no steps have been taken to initiate purchase negotiations in the case.

Methylated Spirit Drinking in Londonderry.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the mischief wrought amongst the working classes in Derry city and county by the consumption of methylated spirit; and whether, in view of the consequences proceeding therefrom, he will take steps to have restrictions placed on the sale of this article, and to warn the people of the dangers arising from its use.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The attention of the Board of Inland Revenue has been directed to the practice of drinking methylated spirit in Londonderry. It is an offence under The Spirits Act, 1880, to sell such spirit as a beverage. The officers of the Inland Revenue are using their best endeavours to procure evidence which will sustain proceedings under the Act in this respect, and the police have been instructed to afford them every assistance in the matter.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he will state how many certificates of exemption from vaccination were granted during the year ending December 31st, 1904, and how the figures compare with the two previous years.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The returns made to the Local Government Board show the number of certificates of conscientious objection received by the vaccination officers during the year. This number may be taken as substantially agreeing with the number granted during the year. The returns for 1904 are not quite complete, but the number of certificates received during that year may be stated approximately as 39,750.. The numbers in 1902 and 1903, respectively, were 33,632 and 37,259.

Local Government Board's Boarding-out Orders.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Board have yet completed their revision of the Boarding-out Orders which have been some months under consideration; and, if so, when they will be published.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The new Order is in an advanced stage of preparation, and I hope that it may shortly be issued.

Appointment of Sorting Clerks and Telegraphists in Dublin.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can state what is the average number of appointments made in Dublin annually to the position of sorting clerks and telegraphists; and can he say when he expects to be able to appoint the large number of learners at present in Dublin.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The number of appointments made in Dublin to the position of sorting clerk and telegraphist fluctuates from year to year. The figures of the last four years are as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
1901 - -	44	23
1902 - -	60	14
1903 - -	38	9
1904 - -	11	5

I regret that I am unable to state when the learners now employed at Dublin may anticipate appointment, but I am now considering whether any measures calculated to improve the position of learners generally can be taken.

Cost of Acquiring the National Telephone Company's Undertaking by the Post Office.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London): To ask the Postmaster-General whether, setting aside the questions of maintenance of the plant and the expansion of the system, the Government obtained any estimate of the probable cost of acquiring the undertaking of the National Telephone Company before entering into the provisional agreement; if so, what is the amount of any such estimate; and whether he will reconsider his decision not to enlarge the terms of the reference to the Select Committee.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) An estimate of the cost of acquiring the National Telephone Company's undertaking in 1911 on the conditions proposed in the provisional agreement would be of no practical value at the present time if the questions of the maintenance and of the expansion of the system in the interval were not taken into account, and I did not obtain such an estimate. I see no necessity for enlarging the terms of reference.

Irish Ordnance Survey.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the clerical and other work appertaining to the ordnance survey in Ireland has been as far as possible transferred to England; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of having all this work done in Ireland under the charge of the Department of Agriculture.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) The completion of some of the maps of Ireland has caused certain classes of work, particularly the engraving of hills and colour-printing, to fall too short to allow them to be carried out economically and efficiently in Ireland, and such work is now done at Southampton. But it would not be correct to say that the clerical and other work appertaining to the survey of Ireland is being, as far as possible, transferred to England, and there is no question of the adoption of such a course. The expenditure on survey work in Ireland has considerably increased in recent years, and now amounts to 42 per cent. of the whole. No change is contemplated in the existing arrangements for the conduct of the survey.

Increase in Number of Commissioners in Lunacy.

SIR JOHN TUKE (Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities): To ask Mr. Attorney-General if his attention has been drawn to the application made in the Report of the Commissioners in Lunacy to the Lord Chancellor for 1904 for an increase to the number of the Commissioners on the ground that such addition is absolutely necessary, and is urgently needed for the efficient and satisfactory administration of the Lunacy Acts; and whether he can inform the House whether any steps are being taken to give effect to this application.

(*Answered by Sir Robert Finlay.*) Attention has been drawn to the application referred to in the Question, and the subject is now under consideration by the Lord Chancellor and the Treasury.

Towing of Disused Warships to New Berths.

SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the

Secretary to the Admiralty whether commissioned cruisers were employed in towing to their new berths the less valuable warships recently set aside, and what amount of coal was expended by His Majesty's ships in so towing them; and why this method was adopted instead of hiring tugs.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The reply to the first part of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. It is not possible to say, without calling for a special report, what amount of coal was expended by His Majesty's ships employed on this service, but 7,000 tons may be taken as an approximate figure. This method was adopted as the cost incidental to the hire of tugs, and also of labour for working anchors and cables in mooring the ships after arrival, would have been greater than the cost of the coal consumed. In addition, the towing of these vessels afforded a most useful experience for the officers and crews of the towing ships.

Allowances to Clerks in the Office of the Registrar-General of Seamen.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will explain why, in face of the Treasury reply to Mr. Cox, of November 19th, 1902, the allowances of £20 granted to abstractors (old class) in the General Register and Record Office of Shipping and Seamen in 1898, have not been extended to assistant clerks (new class) as has been the case in the Custom House, seeing that they are doing the same work for which the allowances were granted.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The arrangement by which certain of the abstractors (old class) in the office of the Registrar-General of Seamen were given an advance of £20 within their scale was temporary and was never intended to be applied to the assistant clerks (new class) in the office. The case of the assistant clerks (new class) in the Custom House is not analogous.

Promotion of Assistant Clerks (New Class) in the Custom House.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that no second-division clerks are employed in the Custom House, he will state what prospects of promotion are provided for the assistant clerks (new class) in the same Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) Assistant clerks in the Customs are eligible for occasional promotion, on the ground of exceptional merit, to the classes of: (1) Port clerks, who now fill the places formerly held by second-division clerks; and (2) Junior clerks in the statistical office.

Mountmellick Town Commissioners and Fines imposed at Petty Sessions.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can state what portion of the fines imposed at Mountmellick Petty Sessions go to the town commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The only fines imposed at Mountmellick Petty Sessions which are payable to the town commissioners are those for the offence of drunkenness committed within the township, contrary to the Licensing Act, 1872, Section 12. In such cases, where the town commissioners prosecute, the whole of the fine is payable to them; and when the police prosecute, half of the fine is payable to the town commissioners and half to the police.

Fines Payable to Town Commissions.

MR. DELANY: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether fines recovered for offences committed within a township should go to the town commission in aid of local rates, irrespective of where the person charged resides; and whether the practice on this matter differs in an urban district.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) I shall be happy to give the hon. Member information on the subject if he will be good enough to give me specific instances of the cases to which the Question refers.

India—Permission for Natives to bear Arms.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether soldiers of the native ruling chiefs in India are provided only with muzzle-loading rifles; and whether, seeing that the Indian people are not allowed to provide themselves with firearms, and in view of the number of natives destroyed annually by tigers, lions, and wolves, he will state the number of lives so lost during the last five years, and say whether the Indian Government will permit the Indian people to bear arms for their protection.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) With the exception of the Imperial Service Troops, troops of the Native States are, generally speaking, not armed with breech-loaders. It is not the case that, as stated in the Question, the Indian people are not allowed to provide themselves with firearms. In India, as in this country, firearms are not allowed to be possessed without a licence; but such licences are granted, when required for the purpose of destroying wild animals or for the protection of crops, free of charge. The number of persons returned as killed by tigers in British India during the last five years is 4,925, and by wolves 1,966; no deaths are shown as due to lions, of which there are very few in India. The number of free licences for firearms issued during the same period was 46,857, of which 37,678 are reported to have been still in force in 1903.

Ireland—Unprotected Railway Loading Banks for Cattle.

MR. FIELD: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the attention of the Department of Agriculture in Ireland has been directed by the Irish Cattle Traders and Stock Owners' Association to the unprotected loading banks for live stock at various stations in Ireland, thereby causing preventable suffering to the animals and loss to the owners; and whether the Department will take measures to compel the carrying companies to adopt a similar system of pens on cattle loading banks as at present in use on the Liverpool station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been directed to the resolutions, passed at Irish Cattle Traders and Stock Owners' Association last Thursday, complaining of the want of proper accommodation for live stock in railway transit, especially with regard to the defective condition of many loading banks; and whether he will communicate with the Department of Agriculture and cause inquiries to be made and improvements effected where necessary.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Department have not within a recent period received representations from the Irish Cattle Traders and Stock Owners' Association respecting the alleged unprotected condition of the loading banks at more than one Irish station, and in that instance the matter is at present the subject of correspondence between the Department and the owning company. The association's resolutions referred to in the second Question have not yet reached the Department. It would appear, however, from the reports in the newspapers that complaint was made at the meeting of the association on Thursday last of the unprotected state of the loading banks for cattle at seventeen stations on two lines of railway. The Department learn from their transit staff that thirteen of these stations are provided with certain penning accommodation from which animals can be loaded into the trucks. This accommodation is in addition to the loading banks which are open platforms. The majority of these loading banks are used for general goods traffic as well as for animals, and might not be suitable for all the purposes required if protected in the way suggested, *i.e.*, by erection along the banks of a series of gates or a special system of pens such as obtains at the Liverpool station mentioned. There are, however, certain Irish railway stations at which a plan of this kind has been adopted at the suggestion of the Department. If specific instances of injury to animals due to the condition of any of the loading banks are brought under the notice of the Department inquiry will be instituted, and where the complaint is well founded representations will be made to the company concerned as regards the provision of a remedy. But no case for general compulsory action is deemed to arise. The principal companies have within recent years spent large sums of money in the improvement of their arrangements for the cattle traffic, and further improvements are being made gradually as circumstances admit.

Ireland—Remuneration of Jurors for Loss of Time, etc.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists in Ireland because jurors are compelled to attend on juries without any remuneration for loss of time or incidental or travelling expenses; and whether he will introduce legislation to assist in remedying the present state of things.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Representations to the effect stated in the first part of the Question have been received. The law is uniform in the three Kingdoms. The reply, therefore, to the second inquiry is in the negative.

Emigration of British and Irish Subjects to the Colonies.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies how many persons of British and Irish origin have emigrated from the United Kingdom in the last thirty years to settle in Canada, Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, and South Africa.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The hon. and gallant Member will find figures with regard to the movements of passengers of British and Irish origin to and from British North America, Australia, and New Zealand, and Cape of Good Hope and Natal, from 1876 to 1903, on pp. 167–169 of the second series of Memoranda on British and Foreign Trade and Industrial Conditions [Cd. 2337] of 1904. The corresponding figures for 1904 are:—

	Passengers outwards.	Passengers inwards.	Balance outwards or inwards.	
British North America - -	69,744	18,397	Outward	51,347
Australia and New Zealand -	13,762	8,670	Outward	5,092
Cape of Good Hope and Natal -	26,681	27,651	Inward	970

The destinations of the outward passengers given are the countries in which they contract to land, and not necessarily their ultimate destinations for purposes of settlement.

Immigrants Refused Admission into Australia.

MR. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state the number of persons refused admission into the Commonwealth of Australia on the ground of being prohibited immigrants since the passing of the Immigration Restriction Act, 1901, the nations to which they belong and whence they came, and the grounds on which admission was refused.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I have not at present the information which would enable me to fully answer the hon. Member's Question, but I will ask the Governor-General for the particulars desired.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Floating Mines in the Gulf of Pe-chi-li.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that floating mines in the Gulf of Pe-chi-li constitute a danger to shipping in Chinese waters, and cause much consternation amongst shipping firms at Tientsin; and will he communicate with the Commander-in-Chief of the British squadron on the China Station on the subject, or take such other action as he may deem necessary to secure the destruction of these mines.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The reply to the first part of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. The Commander-in-Chief has already been communicated with and has reported several cases in which mines have been sighted by His Majesty's ships. As many as possible of these mines have been and will be destroyed.

Anchorage for Disused Vessels.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what are the names, tonnage, and description of the disused vessels sent, or to be sent, to the Clyde; and why is it that no suitable anchorage can be found for them except in the Kyles of Bute or the Holy Loch.

MR. PRETYMAN: Thirteen ships either have been, or will be, sent to the Clyde, the names and tonnage of which I am sending separately to the hon. Member. I fear that I can add nothing to the replies already given with regard to the second part of the Question.

MR. AINSWORTH: I shall take the earliest opportunity of calling attention to this matter.

Portsmouth Church and Parsonage.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the purchase of a church and parsonage at Portsmouth, originally provided under Vote 10 of the Navy Estimates of 1903–4, has now been charged to the Naval Works Loan Fund, what has been the amount paid, and to which sub-head of the schedule of the Naval Works Loan Act of 1903 has this been charged.

*THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARTHUR LEE, Hampshire, Fareham): The purchase of the church and parsonage referred to, for which provision was originally made under Vote 10 of the Navy Estimates 1903–4, will be now provided for under the Naval Works Loan. It will be charged to the item "Portsmouth Naval Barracks," but the purchase has not yet been completed.

MR. BUCHANAN: What was the amount?

*MR. ARTHUR LEE: About £5,000.

Inspector-General of Forces—Report for 1904.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received the Report of the Inspector-General of the Forces for 1904; and whether he intends to lay that Report before Parliament.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The Report in question has been received by the Army Council, but it is not intended to make it public.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Will the right hon. Gentleman give the House a summary of the Report?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir, a summary of the Report might be misleading, and will not be published, nor can a promise be given to publish the Report at a future time.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Then is this important Report never to be published in any shape or form?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The essence of a Report of this kind is that it should not be made public.

South African War Irregularities.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state who were the contractors who supplied 1,350,816 tins of jam for South Africa, each tin containing 12 ounces of jam instead of 1 lb. as per contract; who were the inspecting officials responsible for testing the delivery of the goods; whether the War Office has yet replied to the request of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of 26th April, 1904, for further particulars on this and other cases of deficiency; and, if so, what is the date and nature of the reply.

The following Questions germane to the subject also appeared on the Paper:—

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the statement at page xiii. of the Third Report (1904) of the Committee of Public Accounts, to the effect that, out of the total sum granted, £1,265,000, to the Imperial Yeomanry Committee during the South African War, it appears that for more than one-third, £460,000, no details or vouchers were produced; and whether, since the issue of the Report, 28th July, 1904, any of these vouchers have been forthcoming.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what answer, if any, has been sent to the query of the Comptroller-General, as set forth in the Army Appropriation Account, 1903–4, respecting certain large sales and repurchases of forage by one and the same contractor at the same station in South Africa, who bought oats from the Army at 11s. and sold oats to the Army at 17s. 10d. per 100 lbs.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what reply, if any, has been sent to the query of the Comptroller-General in his Report upon the Store Accounts of the Army, 1903–4, respecting 1,350,816 tins of surplus jam sold at Durban, South Africa, held on charge as containing 1 lb. of jam each and found short of weight by 4 ounces.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the statement of the Comptroller and Auditor-General that the Director of Supplies in South Africa from October, 1902, to December, 1903, disposed of stores which realised £474,000 to three firms, two of whom were forage contractors to the Army; what was the loss to the Government by these sales; who these contractors were; whether they are still on the list of Government contractors; why oats and oat-hay, which had been purchased during January, 1903, at 17s. 11½d. and 17s. 8½d. per 100 lbs., were sold to the same contractor who supplied this forage for 11s. and 10s. per 100 lbs. respectively between January and March, 1903; and whether the amount of £21,232 allowed for deterioration was in respect of forage supplied by the self-same contractor; and why the contracts asked for in reference to these transactions have not been transmitted to the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

MR. LEVY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War why the requests made by the Comptroller and Auditor-General during 1904 for copies of certain contracts for supplies of stores, etc., for the South African War have not been complied with; and whether it is the intention of the War Office to supply copies of these contracts to the Auditor-General.

MR. LEVY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the statement of the Comptroller and Auditor-General that on the sale of surplus jam after the South African War 1,350,816 tins supposed to contain 1 lb. of jam contained only 12 ounces each; what percentage of the quantity supplied is represented by the 1,350,816 tins; who were the contractors who supplied this jam; what steps, if any, have been taken to obtain repayment of the amount overcharged; whether these contractors are still on the list of Government contractors, if so, why have they not been removed from the list.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the War Office has addressed any reply to the letter of inquiry by the Comptroller and Auditor-General of Public Accounts, dated April 26th, 1904, as to the reported deficiency of 337,704 lbs. of jam supplied to the War Office for South Africa; and, if not, will he say why an answer has not been sent; and what is the name of the contractor concerned.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I beg to refer the hon. Members who have put down Questions relating to the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General to the Answer which I gave yesterday† to the hon. Member for North Camberwell.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): The right hon. Gentleman did not give the names of the contractors yesterday. Why does he refuse to give the House this information to-day?

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 1370.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: As far as I am concerned, I do not think if that is made a special Question I can possibly interfere with the discretion of the House in dealing with it, if I have notice of the Question.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: That is my Question on the Paper.

CAPTAIN NORTON: That very Question is asked.

DR. MACNAMARA: May I draw attention to the terms of my Question, which asks who are the contractors?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I rather regret these interruptions. I assure the House that there is no desire on the part of the War Office to hold back information. I shall be happy to give the information to the hon. Member.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Who are they? Read their names now.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask for the information now.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I am afraid the only Answer I can give is that I have not at the moment got them with me. If the hon. Member desires to separate that part of the information desired from the rest of the Question I will gladly answer.

DR. MACNAMARA: I will put it down again.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the part of my Question as to the name of the contractor, and also he has not answered why the War Office neglected to reply to the questions of the Comptroller and Auditor-General of Public Accounts for many months, the Comptroller-General being the officer directly responsible to Parliament.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Delay in replying to the Auditor-General's inquiries has been caused by references having had to be made to South Africa in the matter, and pending inquiries which are being made with a view of ascertaining the best means of preventing such occurrences in future campaigns. The reply to the Auditor-General was delayed until this had been decided.

DR. MACNAMARA: My Question was: When was the reply made to the Auditor-General? Has it been made yet?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir, I think not.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: Nearly a year's delay! May I ask when a reply will be sent to the Auditor-General?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The whole of this matter has been under inquiry at the War Office. It is under investigation at this moment.

SIR HENRY FOWLER: I understand that the War Office are now contemplating the proper measures to prevent a recurrence of these incidents. But we want to know whether proper measures are being taken to punish the guilty persons? I think that is a proper Question.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The right hon. Gentleman is quite right. That is a proper Question. It is a matter that has not been neglected by the War Office. The moment I became aware that there were any incidents of this character I ordered a strict inquiry to be made. That inquiry has been in progress for some time past—for four weeks. A larger question is that raised by the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. That, I understand, will be inquired into by the House. The House may rest perfectly assured we have not the slightest desire to shield any person, or any other desire than to make the most careful, full, and searching inquiry into all the circumstances of this case, which, apparently—although I do not wish to pronounce an opinion prematurely—have done no credit to the administration of this campaign.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: We have not yet got the names of the contractors.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have asked permission to postpone that information till to-morrow. ["Why?"]

Captain NORTON: Are we, then, to understand from the right hon. Gentleman's reply that he only made an inquiry into this matter some four weeks ago? [Cries of "No" and "He said so."]

Mr. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): Will the Secretary of State for War also give the names of other contractors who are mentioned anonymously in the Auditor-General's Report?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I must ask for notice.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight): This is surely an unprecedented affair. [Cries of "Order."] A Question on the Paper has not been answered, and no reason has been given why it was not answered. [Cries of "No."] It is obvious from the Answer given that the right hon. Gentleman knows the names. He will not give the names. ["Order," and cheers.]

Indian and Foreign Drafts.

*Sir J. DICKSON POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the total number of drafts, whose term of service will expire within the next two years, that have been sent to all stations, Indian and foreign respectively, within the past six months.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is impossible to state exactly the number of such men whose service expires in the next two years without reference to every unit concerned. The number who embarked during the trooping season just ended, with less than two years service to complete, was for India 4,610, and for the Colonies 965.

Pauper Soldiers' Pensions.

*Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that Private Willison, late 80th Regiment, was discharged in 1878 from the Army as medically unfit in consequence of injuries received while on military duty, and is now an inmate in Craiglockhart Poor House, Edinburgh, and that under the Army and Naval Pensioners Act the whole of his pension is appropriated by the Poor Law authorities; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of permitting the Poor Law authorities to allow at least a penny per day out of their pensions to veterans so situated for their personal use.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: This matter rests entirely in the hands of the local authorities, who have a claim to the whole pension, as it is less than the cost of his maintenance. I am afraid, therefore, that I am not in a position to take the action suggested in the Question.

Report on Egyptian State Railways.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the publication of the Report on Egyptian State Railways by Lord Farrer, Major le Breton, and Mr. Bury in an abbreviated form has caused dissatisfaction in Egypt, and will he consider the expediency of recommending the Government of Egypt to publish the complete Report, so that the people may have an opportunity of making themselves fully acquainted with the labours of the Commission?

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl Percy, Kensington, S.): No, Sir, no information of the kind has been communicated to us by the Egyptian Government.

North Sea Incident—Cost of the Inquiry

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he can state approximately what were the British costs at the inquiry at Paris into the North Sea incident; by whom these costs will be paid; and whether any negotiations are now proceeding with Russia on matters arising out of the North Sea incident.

Earl PERCY: It is impossible to give even an approximate estimate of the British costs at present, as accounts from various quarters have not yet been received. The expenses of the presentation of the British case to the Commission will be borne by His Majesty's Government; and the expenses incurred by the Commission in organising its staff and in conducting the investigations will be shared equally by His Majesty's Government and the Russian Government in accordance with Article VIII. of the Declaration signed on November 25th, 1904. The answer to the last paragraph is in the negative.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: As regards the Answer to the last sentence in the Question, may I ask whether we are to understand that the Government regard the matter as being finally closed by the payment of the indemnity?

EARL PERCY: Yes, as far as I am aware.

Floating Mines in the Gulf of Pe-chi-li.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the danger to British shipping in Chinese waters through floating mines in the Gulf of Pe-chi-li; and can he see his way to co-operate with other Powers to secure their destruction.

EARL PERCY: We are in communication with the Japanese Government on the subject.

Lost Dogs in the Metropolis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of dogs removed by the police from the streets of the Metropolis during the year ending 31st December last, the number taken to the Dogs' Home, Battersea, the number restored to the owners by the police, and the number sold by the police; and is it the practice of the police to communicate with the owner when the name and address is given on the dog's collar.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): During the year ended on the 31st December last 27,994 dogs were removed by the Metropolitan Police from the streets of the Metropolis. 23,261 of these were taken to the Dogs' Home at Battersea by the police; and the Home subsequently restored 1,092 of them to their owners. 4,181 dogs were restored to their owners by the police. None of the dogs seized were sold by the police. It is the practice of the police to communicate with the owner when his name and address is given on the dog's collar.

Overtime Order No. 1696.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department why, before drafting the Order No. 1,696, he did not ascertain directly from the operatives concerned what their views were; whether he is aware that the trade union concerned is opposed to the legislation of the overtime, and also that the Belfast Trades Council has passed a resolution against the Order; and that on an application being made by the non-textile members of the union concerned to the Secretary of State seven or eight years ago to abolish overtime for women altogether, one of the women factory inspectors was sent to Belfast to inquire, and that her report was in favour of further reduction.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Inquiries were made, and it was reported to me that the operatives immediately concerned would strongly object to the abolition of the practice, which was of many years standing. No complaint in regard to the practice has at any time been made to me, either by any of the operatives affected or by the Belfast Trades Council; and, as I stated in reply to the hon. Member's previous Question,† before the Order was formally made it was published in draft, as required by the Act, with a view to giving opportunity for objections to be made, but no objections were received. The inquiry to which I think the hon. Member must be alluding in the last paragraph of his Question was an inquiry into a different branch of the industry, and on quite a different matter, not overtime, but employment outside the factory or workshop.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 470.

Wages in the Post Office Factories.

Mr. SHACKLETON: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that skilled mechanics have had to leave the employ of the postal factory through not receiving trade union rates, and will he take steps to ensure that where piece-work is insisted upon skilled men shall not receive less than the trade union rate of wages; and also, is he aware that at the present time skilled mechanics of many years service are not receiving the trade union rate of wages when working day-work.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I am not aware that skilled mechanics have left the Post Office factories because they have not received trade union rates of pay; and I am not prepared to take steps in the direction indicated by the hon. Member. The men employed in the factories work only forty-eight hours a week; they get holidays with full pay; and when sick they get "sick" pay. I believe that they regard the terms of employment as satisfactory, and there is no difficulty in getting good workmen to enter the service.

The Post Office Factory at Holloway.

Mr. SHACKLETON: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he can state the cost of supervision, examination, and distribution in relation to the actual cost of production of instruments at Holloway Factory.

Lord STANLEY: A large part of the work done in the factories is not production, but repair; and it would be difficult accurately to apportion the cost of supervision, while the cost of examination and distribution is common to both instruments made in the factories and those made outside.

Mr. SHACKLETON: Would it not be to the interest of the Department to know the facts I have asked for?

Lord STANLEY: No, I do not think so.

Mr. SHACKLETON: Oh!

Cape Mails.

Sir CHARLES McLAREN (Leicestershire, Bosworth): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether the present arrangement whereby the outward Cape mail leaves Southampton about one o'clock on Saturday afternoon, while the incoming mail is delivered in London a few hours later on the same day is to be continued, whereby a week must elapse before answering letters can be despatched by the Post Office authorities; whether he has made inquiries to ascertain if the Union-Castle Company could accelerate speed so as to secure the arrival of the incoming mail on Thursday night or Friday morning were they required to do so; and whether he will make such arrangements as will improve the postal service in this respect.

Lord STANLEY: The arrangement of the mail service to and from South Africa is not correctly described in the Question. The mails for South Africa do not leave London until 2.10 p.m. on Saturdays; and the Cape Mail Packets leave Southampton some three hours later. In the homeward direction, Packets are due at Southampton on Saturday morning; and on about three Saturdays out of four the mail from South Africa is delivered in the city of London early enough in the morning for replies to be sent by the outgoing Cape Packet on the same day. The service is performed by the Union-Castle Company under a contract with the Cape Government extending to the year 1910; and I am not aware that the Cape Government contemplates any change in it. Not being in a position to alter the service myself, I have not made inquiries on the point of speed referred to by the hon. Member; nor, so long as the stipulations of the contract are carried out, is there any ground on which I can press upon the Cape Government the arrangement of conditions more arduous for the contractors and, therefore, probably more expensive.

West African Fishing and Curing Stations.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, as representing the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, whether his attention has been called to the success of the French Mission for establishing fishing and curing stations on the West Coast of Africa, with the view of finding remunerative employment for French fishermen; and whether he, in conjunction with the Scotch Fishery Board, will consider the possibility of similar Missions for the benefit of British fishermen. May I congratulate the hon. Gentleman on his recent promotion?

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES, Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): I thank the hon. Gentleman. No information has reached me as to the French Mission to which the hon. Member refers. I will endeavour to obtain information respecting it, and communicate further with the hon. Member. I should doubt, however, whether the establishment of fishing and curing stations on the West Coast of Africa would be of much advantage to British fishermen.

Registrar of Friendly Societies and Post Office Savings Bank Depositors.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he is aware that the Registrar of Friendly Societies is empowered to compel depositors in the Savings Bank to attend before him and answer for the means by which their deposits were procured; and further, seeing that this practice causes inconvenience and often expense to the depositors, will he take steps to have this alleged grievance removed, or, in the alternative, defray all personal and travelling expenses.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): I understand that the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, when communicating with depositors in cases of dispute relating to Savings Bank deposits, informs them that they may give evidence by Statutory Declaration should they not desire to attend personally.

United States Tariff—Concessions to France, Germany and Italy.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state what were the valuable concessions in the tariffs of the French, German, and Italian Governments which induced the President of the United States to admit certain French, German, and Italian articles of produce at a lower scale of duties than is levied upon the same articles when made in this country; if he will state what were the duties, if any, levied by this country upon the articles of American produce set out in the Reciprocity Treaties made by the United States with the French, German, and Italian Governments; and if he can hold out any prospect of this country obtaining the advantages of the most-favoured-nation clause from the United States Government under present conditions.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The concessions referred to are embodied in the commercial agreements between the countries referred to, which the hon. Member can consult at the Board of Trade. All the articles of American produce on which concessions are granted under these agreements are admitted free into the United Kingdom, except certain classes of dried fruits which are dutiable at the rate of 7s. per cwt. I am not in a position to answer the last part of the Question.

"Labour Gazette."

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if there is any objection to placing a file of the *Labour Gazette* in the Library of the House for the convenience of Members who wish to refer to it.

MR. BONAR LAW: Copies of the *Labour Gazette* will be supplied in future to the Library and Reading Room.

The German Tariff.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will grant a Return showing in parallel columns the rates of duty in the new German tariff, as originally drafted and as finally decided, upon the articles of special interest to British trade which were enumerated in the Report [Cd. 2044] of the Advisory Committee on Commercial Intelligence, so that it may be seen what concessions, if any, have been made to the representations to the German Government recommended by that Committee.

MR. BONAR LAW: A Return relating to the new German tariff, as amended by treaties, has been laid upon the Table and will, it is hoped, be in the hands of hon. Members in the course of a few days. This will afford the hon. Member the means of obtaining the information he desires.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): And can we have in parallel columns the rates of wages and hours of labour of German workers?

[No Answer was returned.]

Higher Education of Nurses.

MR. BLACK (Banffshire): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether the President will withhold his decision as to granting a licence to the Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Nurses until the Select Committee appointed by this House to inquire into the registration of nurses has reported.

MR. BONAR LAW; The Board of Trade propose to hear both the applicants for, and the objectors to, the grant of a licence to the Society for Promoting the Higher Education of Nurses, and until after such hearing do not propose to come to any decision as to postponement or otherwise.

Cost of Providing Books, etc. for Religious Instruction in Non-provided Schools.

MR. ALFRED HUTTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Morley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, having regard to the promise given by the First Lord of the Treasury on October 17th, 1902, that as the education authority controlled only secular education it should not be called upon to pay for the books or other apparatus necessary for the religious instruction in non-provided schools, he will take steps to see that the terms of this promise are carried out in all cases brought to their notice.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): No local authority has been called upon by the Board of Education to pay for books or other apparatus required for the purposes of denominational instruction given in voluntary schools, and the Board has offered no encouragement to managers to press for such payments.

Secondary School Regulations.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Board now propose to withdraw the particular regulations for education other than elementary which prescribe fees and restrict the proportion of free places; and, if so, whether this withdrawal is to be effected by Minute operating during the currency of the existing issue of the Board's book of regulations for such schools.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I think that the hon. Member is mistaken as to the character of the regulations. Regulation 23 of the Secondary School Regulations is of a very general character, and it prescribes no minimum fee. There is no regulation fixing a minimum number of free places. No modification of the regulations, therefore, appears to be necessary.

Marylebone and Brompton County Courts.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the delay in the trial of cases at the Marylebone and Brompton County Courts; and, if so, will he say what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): The business at these two Courts is very heavy, and it is only by great care that the list is kept down. On account of ill-health of the Judge two deputies were appointed last month, and I am informed that there are now practically no arrears, as cases can be entered for trial within one month of the issue of the plaint—a period which cannot be considered unusually long.

MR. WEIR: Then is it not intended to take any steps to deal with this?

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Yes, two deputies have been appointed.

MR. WEIR: Young inexperienced men.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I am told they are thoroughly competent.

MR. WEIR: And I am told the reverse.

Island of Lewis—Medical Inspection.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, in view of the fact that no medical inspector from the Local Government Board has visited the Island of Lewis, will he state on how many occasions the medical officer of health for Ross and Cromarty has visited the island during the last five years; the time he spent in the island; and the names of the districts visited.

*THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): The medical officer has visited the island four times since January 1st, 1900. On each occasion he stayed from twenty-four to forty-eight hours and saw all the local medical officers, but did not visit all the four parishes into which the island is divided.

Crofter Holdings in Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether any land has been secured in Ross-shire for the creation of crofter holdings since the issue of the last Report of the Congested Districts Board; and, if so, will he state the locality, acreage, and the number of new holdings created or to be created.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The Answer to the hon. Member's Question is in the negative.

Boat Cove, County Kerry.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland can he state when work will be resumed at Boat Cove slips, county Kerry; and whether provision will be made for constructing a breakwater off the rocks outside it.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The Congested Districts Board have recently expended a sum of £361 on the extension of the boat-slip at Glen Boat Cove. It is not intended to incur any expenditure on the construction of a breakwater.

Dredging at Kenmare.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, whether he is aware that, owing to the state of the channel at Kenmare, a vessel belonging to Messrs. Russell went aground on March 6th; and whether, seeing that a Government dredger is now at Fenit, arrangements can be made for utilising the dredger at Kenmare.

MR. ATKINSON: On March 6th a vessel grounded near the jetty at Kenmare. The engagements of the Government dredger are such as to make it improbable that she can be employed at Kenmare in the near future.

Irish Cattle Industry—Unprotected Loading Banks at Railway Stations.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the attention of the Department of Agriculture in Ireland has been directed by the Irish Cattle Traders and Stock Owners' Association to the unprotected loading banks for live stock at various stations in Ireland, thereby causing preventable suffering to the animals and loss to the owners; and whether the Department will take measures to compel the carrying companies to adopt a similar system of pens on cattle loading banks as at present in use on the Liverpool station of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway.

MR. ATKINSON: The hon. Member has an unstarred Question on to-day's Paper which deals with the matters referred to in this Question. It will be more convenient to give a printed reply to both Questions, and with the hon. Member's permission I will adopt this course. I have communicated to him a copy of the reply that will appear on the Votes Paper to-night.

Outrages in County Galway—Costello's Case.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he is aware that, in October, 1904, four shots were fired into the house of Patrick Costello, at Ballymacward, county Galway; that, on the night of Sunday, February 26th, 1905, 650 yards of solidly-built walls surrounding Costello's grazing farm at Killivaun were thrown down by a party of men, thus rendering the farm useless for grazing purposes; that the cause of these outrages was that Costello had taken steps to have a judicial rent fixed in opposition to the wishes of the United Irish League in the district; and what steps the Government are taking to deal with outrages of this kind.

Mr. ATKINSON: Shots, apparently from a revolver, were fired into the house of Patrick Costello on the evening of the October 30th last. Costello stated that four shots were fired, but the police could only find traces of two. On the night of the February 26th, about 600 yards of a wall on the farm held by Costello were thrown down. The police are pursuing their investigations in the matter, and I am unable at present to make any statement in respect to the causes to which the outrages are attributed. The condition of this district is receiving the earnest attention of the Government.

Mr. REDDY (King's County, Birr): Did the hon. Member get his information from Lord Ashtown, the most notorious newsmonger in Ireland?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG: Am I to understand that none of the large party of men engaged in this outrage have been discovered?

Mr. ATKINSON: Yes.

Mr. ROCHE (Galway, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a bailiff in the employment of the landlord was caught firing shots the other night?

[No Answer was returned.]

Athenry Outrage.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he is aware that four shots were fired into the house of Thomas Curran, butcher, in the main street of Athenry, between seven and eight o'clock on the evening of the 6th inst., because he refused to obey the order of the local branch of the United Irish League to surrender some grazing farms held by him in the district; where was the police patrol at the time of the outrage; what steps did they take to bring the perpetrators to justice; and how many persons have been arrested in connection with the matter.

Mr. ATKINSON: Four revolver shots were fired at the house of Thomas Curran on the evening of the 6th instant. The police extracted two of the shots from the wooden shutter of Curran's shop window and picked up a third bullet from the ground. Shortly before this occurrence he received a letter from the local branch of the United Irish League requesting him to surrender a grazing farm which he held. A police patrol was on duty at the time in another part of the town. No arrests have yet been made, but the police are using their best exertions to trace the offenders. I cannot at the present stage make any statement in reference to the motives attributed for the outrage.

Mr. DUFFY (Galway, S.): Is it not the fact that an ex-sergeant of police was convicted some time ago of using fire arms in the dead of night?

*Mr. SPEAKER: I understand the hon. Member is now putting a Question as to some other offence?

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): No, Sir, this is a Question which casts an aspersion on a whole district. It alleges a serious crime, and my hon. friend the Member for the district is asking whether recently an ex-sergeant of police was not convicted for this very offence.

Mr. ATKINSON: There is no foundation that he was convicted for this offence.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I meant a similar offence.

Mr. ATKINSON: I have no information.

*Mr. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam): Was it not on one occasion ruled by Mr. Speaker Peel that Questions affecting private character could not be put without notice and under circumstances which afforded no immediate opportunity of answer?

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: That is an aspersion on the decision of the Chair.

A NATIONALIST MEMBER: And by a Deputy-Chairman too.

[The Question was not answered.]

Moyvilla Outrage.

*Mr. CHARLES CRAIG: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if he is aware that on the night of February 23rd, 1905, 500 yards of double walls were thrown down on a grass farm known as Moyvilla, in county Galway, belonging to Patrick Costello, because he refused to surrender it to be divided up amongst the surrounding tillage farms; whether the police have arrested any of the perpetrators of this outrage; and what steps the Government have taken, or intend to take, in the matter.

Mr. ATKINSON: It is the fact that on the night of February 23rd about 460 yards of a stone wall on the farm referred to were thrown down. Pending the further investigations that are now being made in the matter I am unable to ascribe a motive for this outrage. I am informed that shortly before this occurrence Patrick Costello received a letter purporting to come from the local branch of the United Irish League asking him to surrender the farm on May 1st next, and that Costello replied, declining to do so. No arrests have as yet been made. The police, however, are making every effort to detect the offenders, and the condition of the district is receiving the very careful attention of the authorities.

*Mr. CHARLES CRAIG: Arising out of these three Questions, will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of recommending the new Chief Secretary to put the Crimes Act in force in this district?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): Will any effort be made by the authorities at Dublin Castle to suppress the United Irish League in this district?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Notice must be given of that.

Education of Chancery Wards.

Mr. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can state if the children of the late William John Loughrey, of Camnish, Limavady, county Derry, are still within the jurisdiction of the Court of Chancery; whether, in view of the fact that the father and mother were married by a Catholic clergyman, that the father died in communion with the Catholic Church, and that the mother is a Catholic, he can state if the children are being educated as Catholics and in a Catholic institution, and whether the mother has access to her children.

Mr. ATKINSON: I am informed by the Registrar of the Court of Chancery that these children are still within the jurisdiction of the Lord Chancellor. I have no information as to the remaining statements in the Question, but I understand that the children are being educated, by the Lord Chancellor's order, in a Presbyterian institution. The matter is not one in which the Executive Government can interfere.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Is that a matter over which the Lord Chancellor has control? Is it legal for children to be brought up in a different religion to that professed by the parents?

*Mr. SPEAKER: A mere question of law should not be asked.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I thought the right hon. Gentleman knew the law. I apologise for asking him.

Newport Police Surgeon.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Dr. Gill, of Westport, county Mayo, who until lately held the position of dispensary doctor and surgeon to the police at Newport, in the same county, was asked by the police authorities to resign the latter appointment on changing his residence to Westport; and can he state why he was compelled to give up the police appointment.

Mr. ATKINSON: Dr. Gill has been appointed dispensary medical officer at Westport, the duties of which will necessitate his daily attendance at the dispensary there. He could not, in the circumstances, properly discharge the duties of medical attendant to the police at Newport, Mulranny, and Glenhest, which are a considerable distance from Westport, and was consequently required to resign the latter position.

Dr. AMBROSE: Why was Dr. Gill asked to resign and a doctor in the same town not appointed to succeed him?

Mr. ATKINSON: They were different appointments.

Dr. AMBROSE: I am speaking of the police appointment.

Mr. ATKINSON: The new appointment at Westport necessitated daily attendance and he could not cover the police duty.

Dr. AMBROSE: Surely a police surgeon is bound to live within the district?

Mr. ATKINSON: I daresay.

Dr. AMBROSE: I will put another Question down.

Irish National Education Rules.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to enforce Rule 127 (b) as given in the revised edition of 1905; and whether, in view of the disapproval of the proposed rule expressed by managers and teachers and to the probable effect of such in replacing trained male teachers by women teachers, he will order its withdrawal.

Mr. ATKINSON: The Government are in communication with the Commissioners on the subject of this rule, and I would ask the hon. Member to postpone his Question until Monday next.

Thompson-Orpen Estate—Threatened Evictions.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of a resolution passed unanimously by the Millstreet Rural District Council, protesting against the threatened evictions on the Thompson-Orpen Estate in that district, and requesting the Chief Secretary to refuse to lend the forces of the Crown in carrying out eviction proceedings; and what steps he intends to take in respect to the request of the local representative body.

Mr. ATKINSON: The resolution has been received. I have already informed the hon. Member that the Executive are bound in law to afford protection to the sheriff in the execution of the King's writs.

Mr. FLYNN: But is not this a case for administrative solution?

Mr. ATKINSON: We are bound by law to give the protection asked for.

Lord de Freyne's Estate.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Irish Congested Districts Board has purchased the estate of Lord de Freyne in the counties of Roscommon, Galway, and Sligo; and, if so, whether he can state the total purchase money and the number of years purchase for the different classes of tenants, also the particulars of the arrears, current rent, and untenanted land.

Mr. ATKINSON: I am not yet in a position to give the information desired. Negotiations are still proceeding.

Irish Public Works Dredger.

Mr. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the dredger, the cost of which was provided out of the Development Fund Grant last year, has yet been constructed; and, if not, when it will be ready for use.

Mr. ATKINSON: The dredger has been constructed and is in use.

Mr. CLANCY: Where, and how long?

Mr. ATKINSON: I must ask for notice.

Irish Railway System Reform.

Mr. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the nature of the Canadian railway system on which it was suggested, in the letter of the late Chief Secretary for Ireland to Sir Antony MacDonnell, that reform in the Irish railway system might be modelled.

Mr. ATKINSON: I have no information in the matter.

Mr. HAYDEN: This information is important for the debate to take place to-night. It is within the power of the Executive Government to give it.

Mr. ATKINSON: The actual railway system is not stated in the correspondence.

Valuation of Licensed Premises in Ireland.

Mr. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny,N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that The Inland Revenue Act, 1880, Section 43, authorised, for the purpose of the assessment on licensed premises of Excise licence duties, the addition of 20 per cent. as an addition to the valuation of such premises in Ireland alone as valued under The Irish Valuation Act, 1852; that such addition was authorised on the ground that such premises were not then valued under the Valuation Act on the same level as similar premises in England; that the recent decision of the Irish Court of Appeal in the case of Armstrong *v.* the Commissioners of Valuation will henceforth compel the valuation of licensed premises to be made on the same principles as in England, the Government will insist on the addition to the valuation for Excise purposes which is authorised by the Act of 1880; and whether, if necessary, an amendment will be made in the law by which such addition may be made.

Mr. ATKINSON: This is not a matter for determination by the Irish Executive. But I am informed by the Board of Inland Revenue that in assessing licence duty on public-houses, it is not the intention of the Board to add the 20 per cent., or any portion thereof, authorised by the 43 Section (7) of the 43 and 44 Vict. cap. 20., to the Poor Law Valuation in the case of a new general valuation such as that made some time ago for Belfast, where the new valuation represents the true annual value of the licensed premises, and intimation to this effect has been given to the Commissioner of Valuation. It is not proposed to disturb the existing system in other cases. No change in the law is therefore necessary.

County Down Deputy-Lieutenancy.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Marquess of Londonderry, as lord-lieutenant of the county of Down, has recommended the appointment, as deputy-lieutenant of the county, of Colonel Wallace, the Grand Master of the Orange Lodges of Belfast; and whether it is intended to accept the nomination.

Mr. ATKINSON: The appointment of persons to fill the office of deputy-lieutenant of counties is vested by the 30th Section of the Militia Act, 1882, in His Majesty's lieutenants of counties, subject to the approval of the Lord-Lieutenant. In the present instance the Marquess of Londonderry appointed Colonel Wallace as deputy-lieutenant of the county Down, and the Lord-Lieutenant signified his approval of the appointment. I am not aware that Colonel Wallace is a Grand Master of the Orange Society, but in any case his connection with that society is not a statutory disqualification for the appointment.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Is it not the fact that Lord Londonderry has refused to appoint one Catholic magistrate for the whole of county Down?

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is not this noble Lord the Minister for Education, and is he not supposed to hold the scales equally for all parties?

[No Answer was returned.]

Post Office Liability for Undelivered Postal Orders.

MR. EDWARD MITCHELL (Fermanagh, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that on the 14th September last postal orders amounting to £1 12s. 6d. were procured and posted in a letter addressed to a person in Belfast by a Miss Graham at Springfield Post Office, county Fermanagh, that the person to whom the orders were sent never received the letter, and that the orders were cashed in two different post offices in Belfast on the 17th September and the person's name to whom payable forged thereon; and if he will undertake to have the value of the orders refunded to Miss Graham.

LORD STANLEY: I am aware of the case mentioned. The orders were enclosed in an unregistered letter, and the regulation printed on the face of the orders which requires the remitter to fill in the name of the payee was not complied with. In view of the want of precaution shown, I should not be justified in paying Miss Graham the value of the orders.

MR. MITCHELL: Am I to understand nothing will be done to refund the money?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir. Certain instructions are issued with regard to orders, and if they are not fulfilled I cannot see that any obligation rests on the Post Office.

Ballyconnell Post Office Staff.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General what is the constitution of the staff at Ballyconnell Post Office, county Cavan, and if a report has reached him of an insult to Catholic belief in this office on Christmas Day; and, if so, will the matter be investigated and dealt with immediately.

LORD STANLEY: No such report has reached me

Postal Addresses in the Irish Language.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a number of postal officials in the London district have a thorough knowledge of Irish; and whether he will submit the original envelope, addressed by Mr. Thomas Murphy, to any one or more of such competent officials with a view to discovering the alleged error which caused a delay of four days in the delivery of the letter; or will he submit it to Dr. Norman Moore, a member of the Consultative Committee of the English Board of Education, who is a recognised authority on the Irish language.

LORD STANLEY: I have no information as to the knowledge of Irish possessed by postal officials in the London district; and I trust the hon. Member will not think I am discourteous if I say that I am not prepared to waste the time of competent officials or of Dr. Norman Moore by asking them to examine Mr. Murphy's envelope.

MR. BOLAND: But is it not the fact that the original defence of the noble Lord was that the address was incorrectly written in Irish? Will he not submit the matter to arbitration?

LORD STANLEY: No, Sir.

MR. MOONEY (Dublin County, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a letter, addressed in Irish, to the Secretary of the Dunleary Feis Committee, at 3, Lower George's Street, Kingstown, county Dublin, was delivered at 3, Upper George's Street and there opened by the occupier; that, although posted in Dublin on 6th March, it did not reach the person to whom it was addressed until 2 p.m. on 8th March; and whether, seeing that an elementary knowledge of Irish would enable an official to distinguish between the abbreviated forms ioch. (lower) and uach. (upper), he will state what steps will be taken to prevent private letters, through the mistakes of postal officials, from being delivered into the hands of strangers.

LORD STANLEY: I have no information as to the letter to which the hon. Member refers, and I am not prepared to undertake that letters addressed in Irish shall be delivered as certainly or as rapidly as letters addressed in English.

Dredgers on the Irish Coast.

MR. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury how many dredgers are at present at the disposal of the Board of Public Works in Ireland; what steps are taken to ascertain the localities in which they are from time to time most urgently required, and in particular whether local opinions are consulted in the matter; and when may those persons interested in the harbours in the county of Dublin hope to have the services of a dredger.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The Board of Works have only one dredger at their disposal, which will be fully occupied this year on the West Coast. It is assumed that harbour authorities will make their wants and opinions known to the Board of Works.

MR. CLANCY: Where is the one on the West Coast?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: At Tralee, I believe.

MR. CLANCY: When may we expect dredgers in other parts of Ireland?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I cannot say.

Railway Directors and Parliamentary Committees.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Wandsworth if he proposes to accept the nomination of the Committee of Selection to act as Chairman of the Committee upon Group 1, Railway Bills.

SIR HENRY KIMBER (Wandsworth): While I am quite willing to answer, I should like to ask Mr. Speaker if such a Question from one private Member to another is in order.

*MR. SPEAKER: The Question as addressed to a private Member comes extremely near the line of order, but, as the hon. Member is Chairman-elect or Chairman selected of a Committee appointed to sit on the morrow, I do not feel justified in refusing to allow the Question. As to answering it, that is a matter for the hon. Member's own consideration.

*SIR HENRY KIMBER: My Answer to the hon. Member is this: neither in view of what took place yesterday, nor in any other view, can I find any reason why I should not perform the duties assigned to me, and in discharging those duties I believe I shall be acting in accordance with a well-established practice in the House. It is my intention so to act.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I will return to the subject on the Motion for Adjournment.

Appointment of Director of the National Gallery.

COLONEL STOPFORD-SACKVILLE (Northamptonshire, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the term of office of Sir Edward Poynter, P.R.A., as Director of the National Gallery has been renewed since 8th May, 1904, or whether it then came to an end; whether it is in contemplation to make any changes in the conditions of the post; and whether any successor to Sir Edward Poynter, on his retirement, has been appointed.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to my hon. and gallant friend, I have to say that Sir Edward Poynter's term of office, after being twice renewed, expired on December 31st last. No other appointment has yet been made. The conditions of the appointment are under consideration.

Mr. Chamberlain's Visit to South Africa.

MR. BLACK: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to publish the Report or Memorandum by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham on his Mission to South Africa, undertaken when he occupied the position of Colonial Secretary.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not aware of any undertaking such as that to which the hon. Gentleman refers, nor do I think any such undertaking was made.

Mr. BLACK: Is it intended to suppress the Report?

Mr. A. J. Balfour's reply was inaudible in the gallery.

Home-Service Army and the Volunteers.

Major SEELY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Committee of Defence intend to proceed with the formation of a home-service Army together with the reduction of the Volunteers.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it is within the functions of the Committee of Defence to deal with the subject to which the hon. Member refers, and I certainly can make no statement on the subject.

Captain NORTON: Are they not responsible for the general policy of the Army?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No, Sir; the Secretary of State for War is responsible.

Major SEELY: Is it intended to proceed with the formation of the home-service Army before the Estimates are discussed in this House?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman will have a full opportunity of discussing the question; but I do not think it would be desirable to anticipate the discussion by Question and Answer across the floor of the House.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): I have to put a Question relating to the Resolution which stands on the Paper in the name of the First Lord. I wish to ask the right hon. Gentleman to explain the relation of Votes A and 1 of the Army Estimates to the rest of his proposals concerning the Supplementary Estimates, and what use is proposed to be made of the money he desires to have voted for the Army by eleven o'clock on March 30th.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: If the right hon. Gentleman will look carefully at the very instructive and interesting case which arose in 1894, when there was a difficulty in reference to the Supplies within the financial year, and Sir William Harcourt was, I think, Chancellor of the Exchequer, he will see the matter explained. I do not know whether it will be better for me to enter on that explanation now or later, when I have to move the Resolution, but the point really is this. Of course we should prefer to get Votes A and 1 of the Army Estimates in time to introduce the sums so voted into the Consolidated Fund Bill; that would be more convenient to the Government and save the introduction of two Consolidated Fund Bills. But that would further curtail the possibility of discussion of the Votes before the end of the legal year, and we have therefore abandoned that, though the more convenient, course. It is absolutely necessary to have the Vote in Committee and the Report before the end of the financial year, otherwise the Treasury will have no authority to pay any money to soldiers or for Army Estimate purposes. That really is the reason, which I think the right hon. Gentleman will consider valid. Of course, if it had not been for that we would much rather, and it would be more convenient to the Government if time were not against it, that the Votes should be allowed to run after the close of the financial year. We propose, however, to put down some Vote which will allow a discussion to be taken on Army policy. It would have been more convenient to allow the Votes to run on, but that is not possible.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether the money granted by the new Consolidated Fund Bill for Naval and Civil Services will after April 1st be applicable to Army purposes?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Without Votes A and 1 we shall have no money to deal with for that purpose.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: But the money applied to A and 1 of the Army Votes will be that granted for Naval and Civil Services.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR assented.

NEW BILL.

CHARITABLE LOAN SOCIETIES (IRELAND) BILL.

"To further amend the Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland) Act, 1843," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Walter Long; to be read a second time upon Monday, 3rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 101.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.)

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Some of my critics last night said, and said truly, that no Motion of this kind has ever been brought before the House of Commons, and I am not at all sure that on close examination this will be found in any way to condemn it. Leaders of the House from time to time for many years past have been obliged to propose exceptional measures for expediting the business of the House, but on every previous occasion that course was adopted in order that the Government of the day might deal satisfactorily with their legislative programme. When, for example, the Home Rule Government in 1893 closured the Home Rule Bill or the Evicted Tenants Bill, they did it, not in obedience to any demands of the law, but because they conceived it to be absolutely necessary in the interest of general Parliamentary business — thought rightly or wrongly; we thought wrongly—necessary to bring discussion to a close. In the same way when the Education Bill was under discussion a like measure was proposed, but it was because the session had gone on almost up to Christmas, and we believed it was in the interests of the dignity of the House, the health of Members, and the progress of business that discussion should not be indefinitely prolonged, and every public interest required us to put an end to the stages of the Bill. But in neither of those cases, which are typical cases, drawn from the action of the Party opposite and of the Party to which I belong, nor in any previous case did the question of law come into account; it was a question of convenience, of propriety of debate, rightly or wrongly interpreted by those who were at the time responsible to the House for the conduct of business. But, as will be seen from the first words of it, the Resolution I propose to move is in order that the House may meet financial obligations thrown upon it by the law, and for the carrying out of financial arrangements which tradition, policy, and statute law commend to our respectful attention, and indeed to our obedience. The end of the financial year and the rigid close which that puts to a certain class of our debates on the Estimates has, of course, caused immense inconvenience to many of my predecessors. An Opposition can always prolong debate on Supply—there is no difficulty in doing that, no great ability or ingenuity is required—and by such a proceeding can drive any Government, in ordinary times, into a position of great difficulties, into difficulties which do not affect Government business only, which do not affect the credit of the Government, but difficulties that affect the credit of the House, and it is to protect the credit of the House as a House that I have proposed this Resolution.

What will the Resolution, if passed, accomplish? It will provide that each Vote and each financial Resolution which is necessary in order to bring the financial work of the year 1904–5 to an end at the legal time shall be passed at the very latest moment at which it is possible for it to pass in order to obey the law. It will further provide that Votes A and 1 of the Army, which are necessary not in order to bring to a conclusion the financial business of 1904–5, but which are necessary in order to carry on the business of the country during the early period of 1905–6, shall be passed in time to enable the Paymaster of the Treasury to issue the necessary funds for carrying on Army purposes. I do not think anybody who has examined this rule will for a moment deny that the claim I make for it is an adequate claim, and it will not be denied that I have deferred until the very last moment——

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs): Calling Parliament.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid the hon. Gentleman did not follow me. I will come to the calling of Parliament directly. Taking the financial situation in which we find ourselves, I do not think any critic will deny that this Resolution puts off to the last possible moment the decision of this House upon every financial stage necessary to bring the financial work of the year to the legal and proper termination. I believe I might go further and say that in passing the last stage of the Consolidated Fund Bill as late as the 30th, I am passing it later than it has ever been passed before, and that I am inflicting considerable inconvenience on the Treasury. I would like to say that I hope no successor of mine standing in this place will take it as a precedent. I think it would be convenient that the Bill should pass at an earlier date than the 30th. I only mention the fact as showing that we have given hon. Gentlemen every opportunity for discussion consistent with the obligations imposed upon us by Parliamentary and Treasury traditions backed up by statute law. That seems to me to differentiate this case from all other cases; it differentiates it strongly in favour of this Resolution. In other cases, no doubt, the two sides of the House might be, and were, bitterly opposed as to the propriety of passing the measure whose passage into law was accelerated by the closure Resolution. We wished to go on discussing the Home Rule Bill, and hon. Gentlemen opposite wished to go on discussing the Education Bill, and there was a clean cut division in the House as to what was desirable from the point of view of Parliamentary legislation. I should have hoped and should almost have expected that all sides of the House would have agreed in this—that it is desirable and even necessary for the proper conduct of the financial business of this House that we should carry out what has invariably been regarded by every Chancellor of the Exchequer and every Government in succession as an integral and constitutional portion of our financial system. But I am afraid I cannot count on that unanimity. I do not know whether hon. Gentlemen opposite will boldly get up and say they desire the law to be broken.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): We throw the responsibility on you.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes; and the responsibility would have been upon me if I had not proposed this Resolution. The hon. Gentleman's policy would be to force, as far as he was able, a breach of the law, and then get up and abuse me for it. [OPPOSITION cries of "Withdraw."] I think hon. Gentlemen will recognise that I have said nothing that is in the least offensive. If we were provisionally to agree that the law is to be maintained, and I shall be interested to hear whether that modest proposition is denied or is not denied, how is that end to be attained?

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): Dissolve.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot help thinking that in that interruption there was perhaps a commentary upon the preceding interruption. I do not know whether to take the two as in any way logically or practically connected. A dissolution might have many advantages, but it would not conduce to keeping this particular law. Putting that aside, how is the law to be maintained? I can think of no other method than the one which was suggested by an hon. Member in a warm conversation which we had between a quarter past twelve and one o'clock last night. I am not sure whether it was not the hon. Member for Waterford who advised the Government to take all the time of the House.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I suggested that you should suspend, if necessary, the twelve o'clock rule on one or two occasions, in accordance with the practice of many years past.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I accept the correction of the hon. Gentleman. The suggestion was that the twelve o'clock rule should be suspended and that we should endeavour to get through the Parliamentary business by that method. I will not disguise to the House that I do not think that would have been, or could have been, successful. How far an all-night sitting may compel a reluctant minority to give way I do not know, or how many all-night sittings would have been required in order to carry through the mass of business which is detailed in the lengthy Resolution which I am going to propose to the House. If hon. Gentlemen will look through that Resolution they will see the number of divisions which it involves and the opportunities for prolonged debate which it offers.

Mr. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): All on your own side. You put up a dozen men to waste time.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! These constant interruptions are not desirable.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: My point was that the opportunities for prolonged debate were so great. I do not believe that the method suggested by the hon. Gentleman would have succeeded, I do not believe it would have been an effectual method, and I am sure it would not have been so much for the dignity of the House as the method I propose. I have seen as much of all-night sittings as the rest of the world. I have engaged in them in opposition, I have engaged in them as a member of the Government. I have seen them from both sides, and both sides are seamy sides. I do not deny that they are sometimes necessary. I think it is probable that most Gentlemen here will have to undergo the rather sordid toils which they impose upon a Member of Parliament before they quit Parliamentary and public life. But surely they should be avoided if possible. Nobody can pretend either that the discussions which take place during an all-night sitting are discussions which contribute to the elucidation of topics, or that the feeling engendered between the two sides is a good or useful feeling, or that the spectacle of bedraggled Members of Parliament going home after sitting up all night at half-past eight, or half-past nine, or half-past ten in the morning is one which is calculated to raise the reputation of the House in the eyes of the country. And observe, if you are to carry out that system you would have to do more than arrange for a series of all-night sittings. You would have to take away private Members' time.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND: I did not suggest all-night sittings.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Hon. Gentlemen who have read the Resolution are aware that it preserves the Parliamentary time which by Standing Orders is allocated to unofficial Members. Those who call to mind the prolonged debates which we had upon the modification of the rule will remember that the Government of that day pointed out that the preceding system, under which private Members had an immense amount of time at their disposal by Standing Orders, but were invariably deprived of their time by a Government in difficulties, was not a good plan either for the Government or for private Members. We suggested as the most advantageous alternative that the amount of time nominally at the disposal of unofficial Members should be curtailed, but that such time as was left should be, in so far as was possible, given to them under a secure tenure. Their nominal income was to be so much smaller, but the income they had was to be paid regularly. I still think that is a sound system; and during the years in which the new rules have been in force private Members have had, three times every week before Easter, and twice every week between Easter and Whitsuntide, their opportunities of bringing forward abstract Resolutions or Bills as the occasion and the day served. I should have been very sorry to have departed from that plan. I believe that by depriving unofficial Members of that time we should have started a precedent which would have found many followers, and the result would have been that all the benefit gained from the new rules so far as unofficial Members are concerned would have been wasted, and the authors of those rules would themselves have been responsible for the destruction of their own work. I, for my part, could not contemplate that with serenity, and I have been most careful in the Resolution which I have laid before the House, at considerable inconvenience to the Government, to preserve absolutely intact the rights of unofficial Members of this House.

I think that is an adequate defence of the proposal which I lay before the House. Of course, I do not deny that it carries with it, or that the state of Supply carries with it, because I do not think the Government are responsible, this great disadvantage, that the amount of time given to Votes A and 1 of the Army will be curtailed, as I think, beyond what is convenient in the interests of discussion in this House. I do not say that the time is unprecedentedly short. There are plenty of precedents for getting through them as speedily as they will be got through under the drastic compulsion of this Resolution. But I do not think it is desirable, and I am very sorry it has to be done. The evil, however, will, I think, be a slight one, for I at once acknowledge that an opportunity without delay should be given for a continuation of the discussion analogous to that which might have taken place on Votes A and 1 in which my right hon. friend might be cross-examined as to his policy, and in which he might have a full opportunity of laying that policy before the House in reasoned argument. I shall make it my business immediately after the close of the present financial year, and before we proceed to other business, to give an opportunity for dealing with the problems connected with the Army. I hope, therefore, the House will see that, much as I regret the curtailment of debate on Votes A and 1, it does not carry with it any curtailment of the discussion of Army questions.

I was interrupted earlier in my statement by an hon. Member who indicated that all these evils had come upon us because the Government called Parliament together too late. Even supposing that we are open to that charge, which I do not think we are, I would venture to say that it does not alter the necessity of passing this Resolution, that it does not make it less needful for us to make provision for obeying the financial law. And although I should be ready to apologise and to stand in a white sheet, if that were necessary, if I thought we were to blame in asking Parliament to meet too late, it would not, by one hair's breadth, alter the policy which I am now asking the House to adopt. That policy has nothing to do with the past; it has solely to do with the future — with the future of this financial year and with the maintenance of that unbroken tradition which has, up to the present time, always governed the action both of the House of Commons and of successive Governments. But is it true that we have given too little time, an unduly small space, to the discussion of the necessary Supply of the year? I do not think it is at all true. May I remind the House that, so far as Supplementary Estimates are concerned, it is really impossible for any Government accurately to foresee their amount and number at the time the decision is taken as to the date at which Parliament should meet? Supplementary Estimates may, and do, become necessary at any time up to a late period in the financial year. If I remember aright, the decision that Parliament should meet on February 14th was taken at the Cabinet which was held late in December, and at that time it was quite impossible to foresee the exact number or character of the Supplementary Votes. Again, I may say that the Supplementary Estimates this year are excessive neither in number nor in character. They do not involve great topics of discussion; they do not raise vast questions. They have been enormously surpassed by the Supplementary Estimates of preceding Governments—Governments to which I have belonged and to which I have been opposed. If these Supplementary Estimates are below the average, how stands the number of days we shall have given to the Supply of the current year before the current year comes to an end on March 31st? The thirteen days which we will have spent before the end of the financial year, though not the highest, is decidedly above the average. And though, no doubt, Parliament has often met earlier, the Government that called it earlier together has commonly tried to do other business than financial business between the summoning of Parliament and the end of the financial year. We have made no such effort. The whole time of Parliament since we met has been devoted to giving opportunities to hon. Gentlemen opposite to criticise the Government and to discuss the Supplementary Estimates or Votes A and I of the Navy. Not one hour, nothing, I believe, beyond the ten minutes occupied by my right hon. friend the Lord-Advocate, has been devoted to Government business or Government legislation. I think, when all these facts are taken into account—the relatively unimportant character of the Supplementary Estimates, the relatively long period we have devoted to them, and the self-denying care with which we have abstained from entering into the domain of legislation at the cost of the time which the House might desire to spend on the Estimates—they will wholly absolve us from any charge of having either called Parliament too late or of in any other way hampered the due consideration of our financial business.

I remember a year, and so will right hon. Gentlemen opposite, in which the difficulties of the then Government were very much greater than our own in regard to the Estimates. At the beginning of 1894 the session of 1893 was still in progress. I am not going to revive ancient debates as to who were responsible for so abnormal, so unsatisfactory a state of things. Right hon. Gentlemen opposite, I imagine, put it down to the obstruction of the Unionist Party.

SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): Their prolonged discussions.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Their prolonged discussions. Yes, Sir, but considering that the measures were the Home Rule Bill, the Evicted Tenants Bill——

MR. JOHN MORLEY (Montrose Burghs) said that the Evicted Tenants Bill was not then before the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, considering that the measures were the Home Rule Bill and the Parish Councils Bill, I do not think that was at all surprising. But I notice that whenever, by prolonged discussions, as the right hon. Gentleman euphemistically put it, the present Government has got into difficulties, it is because they have mismanaged business; and whenever, by prolonged discussions, hon. Gentlemen opposite in past times have got into difficulties, it is because they have got to deal with an unscrupulous Opposition. I do not know why these different measures should be meted out to different Leaders of the House. But it is not to discuss or to weigh in the balance the relative responsibility of the Government or the Opposition eleven years ago that I have mentioned the point. What I want to remind the House of is what took place. The House met on March 12th for the first time. On March 15th the Supplementary Estimates were agreed to. On March 16th the men and pay of the Army were agreed to and the Supplementary Estimates were reported. On March 19th the debate on setting up the Committee was begun but not concluded, and the Army Report was taken. On the 20th the Speaker was got out of the Chair, and the men and money for the Navy were voted, all on one night; and on the 21st the Civil Services Vote on Account was agreed to. There was a short debate on the 22nd on the Report of the 21st, and the Consolidated Bill was read a first time and was carried through on the 29th.

AN HON. MEMBER: It was done by the voluntary act of the House.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It was done by the voluntary act of the House. I was then the Leader of the Opposition, and I have been referred to a statement which I made on that occasion. I said "that the last thing the Opposition desired was to drive the Government into any illegality or to drive the Departments into extreme inconvenience," and the Government acknowledged the consideration shown by the Opposition in the transaction of business in difficult circumstances before the close of the financial year. The Opposition of that day thought that from the arena of Party conflict might, at all events, be excluded the debates necessary to carry out the law and the traditions of our financial business. I do not think a similar claim will be made by hon. Gentlemen opposite at the present time. If they say, and I am sure they will be ready to say, that this Government is peculiarly wicked and peculiarly weak, and that it has not behind it the support of the country, hon. Gentlemen who carry their minds back to 1894 will hardly pretend that the Opposition of that day held any very different view of the Government.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: And they turned out to be correct. The cases are parallel.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know whether the hon. Gentleman agrees with our estimate of the then Government. I say it really in no agressive spirit, and without any desire to provoke controversy, but I think it will be admitted that, if we compare the Opposition of that day with the Opposition of this day, in this particular the comparison is altogether in favour of the Opposition of 1894. But I admit, and for years experience of this House has forced me more and more to admit, that as time goes on it becomes less and less possible to rely upon the ancient conventions which used to regulate, in the absence of positive provisions, the debates and procedure of this House. Divisions are now taken on subjects which by immemorial tradition were always regarded as outside the necessity of taking a division. I have heard it said—I do not know whether it is true—that hon. Gentlemen opposite consider themselves justified in using in the circumstances of this year special means for embarrassing and hampering the ordinary conduct of public business. Exactly; and what does that mean? It means that things which by convention used to be left outside the domain of Party politics are now brought into Party politics. It means that neutral territory is being invaded now by the forces of both sides, that belligerency is being carried over far wider areas than it used to be in former times; and if that is being done by the Opposition it is inevitable, and will be found inevitable by every Government, that it should be met by corresponding provisions on the part of the Government. I am not saying this, and I am sure that hon. Gentlemen will recognise that I am not saying this, in any controversial spirit. I am merely indicating a tendency which I honestly say I regret, but which I admit to be inevitable, and over which, being inevitable, I am wise enough not to waste tears and groans. The old easy-going plan by which our forefathers conducted the business of the country without difficulty and without friction is becoming more and more impossible; but it is clear that as that disappears it will involve increased stringency in the character of our Standing Orders, and that such a Motion as that of my hon. and gallant friend the Member for Essex, a Motion limiting the duration of speeches, should be seriously considered as a practical necessity to which we shall have to submit shows how widely we have departed from the old ways, and how new are the conditions under which we have to carry on our work. Those perhaps are general reflections which are a little outside the narrow scope of the Resolution; but as regards the Resolution itself I would defend it not upon these broader considerations or upon any wide issue; I am content to rest it upon these considerations, that the law should be obeyed, and that there are only two conceivable ways of getting it obeyed, one by sacrificing all the rights of private Members and having these prolonged sittings night after night, the other by the plan which I have proposed, which involves no long sittings, which sacrifices no rights of private Members, and which brings business to a conclusion at the appointed time. That one of those plans must be adopted if we are to retain our ancient practices nobody can doubt, and that of those two alternatives we have chosen the right one is a question which I submit with the utmost confidence to the judgment of the House and the country. I beg to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in order to comply with the Law the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned.

"At half-past Five of the clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes.

"As soon as the Resolutions so disposed of are reported to the House, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, and the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of any Resolutions proposed in that Committee.

"At Ten of the clock on the 23rd day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolution then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the House doth agree with the Committee in all Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and shall then put a like Question on the Resolution reported with respect to the Supplementary Estimates for the Army, and on the Resolutions reported with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy.

"On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported.

"And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put any Question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill.

"And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion

that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

"At Eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any sitting at which Government Business has precedence."—(*Mr. A J. Balfour.*)

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): Mr Speaker, the House is accustomed under the Leadership of the right hon. Gentleman to an encroachment upon its powers, its authority, and its freedom, to which there has been no parallel in its past history. Master of paradox as the right hon. Gentleman is, nothing amused or amazed me more in the speech which he has just delivered than his statement that he brought forward this Motion to protect the credit of the House. I do not know that this Motion will take first place, but I think that it certainly ought to rank very high, even among the achievements of the right hon. Gentleman, in the art which he has made peculiarly his own. I cannot help thinking also that he might now, at any rate, begin to dispense with these conventional expressions of reluctance and regret with which he still seems to think it seemly to preface each successive inroad upon our liberties. Let the right hon. Gentleman acknowledge, and frankly acknowledge, that he has now in the course of a number of years supplied precedents for the suppression of debate for every conceivable emergency to which the business of this House can be brought either by the mismanagement of the Government or the slackness of the majority. The step now proposed, as the right hon. Gentleman has admitted, is entirely without precedent. No Government until this year 1905 has found any difficulty in so conducting proceedings in Supply that the Royal Assent has been obtained for the Consolidated Fund Bill before March 31st; and this proposal of the right hon. Gentleman, this absolute innovation on the unbroken course of our procedure in the past, is presented to us to-day under conditions—I am going to use strong language—under conditions as unseemly and as discourteous to the House of Commons as to constitute an equally bad precedent with the Motion itself. Here we have in this proposal which you, Sir, have read from the Chair a long and complicated Motion which, I find, has no less than twelve distinct paragraphs, which bristle from the first line to the last with contentious matter both in principle and in detail, and it appears for the first time on the Notice Paper to-day, on the morning of the assembling of the House. Even if the right hon. Gentleman's case in other respects were as strong as I am going to show it is weak, it would be no conceivable justification for this indecent hurry; and it is to indicate the sense of the House on that point—to endeavour, at any rate, to elicit it—that I propose to conclude the observations which I am going to make by moving the adjournment of the debate.

Sir, every fact which the right hon. Gentleman has stated in his speech to-day was within his knowledge and that of his friends and colleagues to whom he could go. He knew, for instance, that Parliament assembled this year on February 14th, twelve days later than last year. He knew also, at any rate, it was a matter of common knowledge — and it can hardly have escaped the right hon. Gentleman—that March 31st is not a movable feast, but a fixed date in the calendar. Why, then, with all the facts, as I have said, capable of ascertainment quite as easily three or four days or a week ago, did not the right hon. Gentleman show to the House of Commons that consideration which I think it has a right to expect from those entrusted with the conduct of business, and give us, at any rate, two or three days time in which to consider the nature of a proposal which will so largely curtail our freedom of debate?

Now I should like to put a Question suggested by the right hon. Gentleman's speech. What is the cause of the situation in which we find ourselves, and what is the proper remedy? The cause is not far to seek. The right hon. Gentleman has endeavoured to coerce us into accepting this proposal by alleging that if we do not do so we shall be violating the law of the land. But whose fault is it that we have been brought within a measurable distance of the violation of that law? Parliament did not meet until February 14th. The discussion of the Supplementary Estimates did not begin in Committee until March 2nd, a date by which last year I think five days had already been devoted to their discussion, and the Speaker had been got out of the Chair on the Navy Estimates, and, if my memory is accurate, both Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates had been passed. The right hon. Gentleman did not endeavour to make out a case on the ground of obstruction. If he had, it would have been easy to show that, except during those hours of the day when the attendance of the Party opposite was insufficient, there had been nothing in the nature of undue prolongation of debate, or of tedious repetition. [Cries of "Oh."] Well, when did it happen?

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): Over and over again.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is one of them.

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. Member is evidently referring to some performance of his own. I am speaking of the conduct of Gentlemen on this side of the House. Take the Army Supplementary Estimates. They included a very large Vote for Somaliland which was deliberately excluded from the regular Estimates, and no one who listened to the debate on that most important item, and who remembers that the debate on the other items—many of them important—was closured, can say that the Government have any reason to complain of the facilities they have had. As to the Navy Estimates, not only has the Speaker been got out of the Chair, but the Government have obtained both Vote A and Vote 1. So far there has been nothing abnormal except the lateness of the date on which the Estimates were presented to the House, which was itself a consequence of the lateness of the date on which the Government deliberately chose to open the session of Parliament. If anyone is responsible for a possible breach of the law, it is not the House of Commons but the Executive. But by far the most flagrant case—that which is responsible for the difficulties in which the Government find themselves—is the case of the Army Estimates. Those Estimates were not circulated to Members until yesterday morning. Now that we have them in our hands we see that they not only involve a considerable addition to the expenditure on the Army, but that in point of form they are entirely novel and unprecedented. Why were they so long in seeing the light? Who is their real parent? What is the military policy, or want of policy, that they embody or are intended to embody? Those are questions which, up to this moment, have been wrapt in impenetrable obscurity and to which this House is not only entitled but bound to demand an answer under conditions which will make discussion operative and ensure the fullest explanation.

What does the right hon. Gentleman propose under this Motion? I hope the House has paid due attention to the concluding paragraph. After three hours and a-half's discussion on Tuesday, the 28th, the Motion that the Speaker do now leave the Chair is to be put. After another three hours and a-half's discussion on the 29th, every Question necessary to dispose both of Vote A and Vote 1 in Committee is to be summarily got rid of; and after another two hours discussion on the evening sitting of the 30th the Report of the Resolutions on these two Votes is to come to an end. I say that that approaches the dimensions of a Parliamentary scandal. It is all very well for the right hon. Gentleman to tell us that out of his benevolence, when the Votes have passed out of our control, he will give us some other opportunity for discussing Army policy. But these are the Votes for the men and the pay of the Army.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It is more time than was given to them in 1894.

Mr. ASQUITH: In 1894 we had not a heaven-born War Minister proposing a revolution in the Army. We had not Estimates of £30,000,000. We had not Estimates in an entirely new and unprecedented form; and we had not the best reason to suspect that the persons nominally responsible for the Estimates had not got their heart in them at all. The conditions in 1894 were as dissimilar from those of to-day as those of any two years which could be selected since the beginning of the Christian era. Whether you have regard to the conduct of the Government in the late presentation of these Estimates, due to remissness, or indecision, or dissension, and in course of time we shall find out which; or whether you have regard to the magnitude and novelty of the issues of military policy which are involved; or whether you have regard to the vital necessity of this House being in a position at the earliest possible moment to pronounce after full discussion its determination on those issues—I say that this proposal to give three hours and a-half on two days, and two hours on a third, to their discussion is as great an outrage as has ever been offered by a nominally responsible Minister to a nominally deliberative Assembly. The Government have difficulties, but they are difficulties of their own creation. They are not of the creation of this House, upon whom, with a zeal for vicarious punishment of which this is not the only example, the Government propose to inflict the penalty. The right hon. Gentleman threatens us with the terrors of the law, and asks whether we are to be parties to the breaking of it. There is no reason whatever why the law should be broken if this Resolution were not carried. There is not the least reason to suppose that the many expedients which our reformed procedure gives would not be perfectly ample to secure compliance with the law. The right hon. Gentleman might suspend the twelve o'clock rule, and move the closure on successive items; and, if the zeal of his supporters would have allowed, the right hon. Gentleman might have held Saturday sittings. The Government have in their hands powers which hitherto have been found sufficient to meet the necessities of the case. Why should we give them more? Everyone knows the real reason. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of many things; but he never approached that which every man on both sides knows to be the occasion and the necessity. The real reason for the Motion is that Government cannot persuade their majority to attend. At certain well-known hours of the afternoon and the evening the Government can only be kept in office by the friendly and opportune loquacity of the talkers-against-time. That throws a very heavy burden on those well-meaning gentlemen; and, however skilfully the operation may have been conducted, there have been moments when the situation has been of very great anxiety to the right hon. and gallant Gentleman who so admirably discharges the exceptionally arduous duties of Whip to the Government Party.

The question arises, How ought we to deal with this matter? I say the Motion is unfounded in fact, and absolutely unnecessary in point of law. I confess when I first heard what it was to be, and took consultation with my friends, I was rather inclined to think that the best plan would be to move the previous Question. And I will tell the House why. I thought it would have been a good opportunity to redeem that time-honoured Parliamentary weapon from reproach by putting it to worthier purposes than those for which it has recently been used. For if we had moved the previous Question to-day, it would have been employed, not to burke and to boycott, but to assert and preserve the practice of free debate. But, on the whole, having regard to the circumstances under which this Motion has been presented to the House, it seems to me that the wisest and most dignified course is at once to move the adjournment of the debate. We have not had the opportunity which we are entitled to demand of considering this Motion soberly, wisely, and at leisure. But before I move, I will again emphasise the point with which I began by saying that the right hon. Gentleman's proposal, strange and unprecedented as it is, is not a mere isolated affair. It is a step in a series. It is another stage on the journey which has marked, and is marking, the degradation of the House of Commons—I speak in all seriousness—from a deliberative to a dependent body, and which, if it is allowed to go on, will transform the House into a mere automatic machine for registering the will of the Executive of the day. This is not a Party question. Majorities and Ministries come and go. Before very long we may be sitting on that side of the House and the Party opposite on this. But there is one thing which hitherto, at any rate, has always remained behind and above all as a constant and continuous factor in our constitutional life — and that is the authority of the House of Commons. That authority, many outside observers tell us, in these days is dwindling. Sir, the House may be certain that it cannot survive, and that it does not deserve to survive, habitual acquiescence in humiliation such as this. We are here as representatives and spokesmen of our constituents. We are here also, most of us, zealous and faithful Party men. But we all share, in whatever quarter of the House we sit, in the responsibility of a higher and a larger duty—the duty of preserving and perpetuating the unbroken identity of a free Parliament. I beg to move that the debate be now adjourned.

Motion made, and Question put, "That the debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. Asquith.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 206; Noes, 266. (Division List No. 51.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott

Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brand, Hn. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas.Ramsay (Galway
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice,CaptEC(SAndrw'sB'ghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,Sir FrancisH (Maidstone
Evans, Samuel T.(Glamorgan)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir JosephF. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Mitchell,Edw.(Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (RoscommonN
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie(Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B. (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence, Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth
Wills, Arthur W. (N. Dorset)
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wood, James
Woodhouse,Sir JT.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope

Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. A. Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beckitt, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col H F (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Campbell, Rt Hn. J A. (Glasgow)
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt Hn Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hn Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S W
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edwasd Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'ry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Stafford S. N W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H (Somers't, E.
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks. N R
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut,- Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n)
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh're
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Fredk. G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sii John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Chales Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry

Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith H.C.(North'mb.Tyneside
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirC.EH (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Welby,SirCharles G.E. (Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley,H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A. Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt.Hn.E.R.(Bath)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood
and Viscount Valentia.

Original Question again proposed.

MR. JOHN REDMOND moved an Amendment, declaring that the proposal submitted by the Prime Minister was a violation of the constitutional rights of the House. He said the speech of the Prime Minister emphasised, if possible, the grave importance of the step which the House was asked to take. The right hon. Gentleman used certain phrases in moving the Motion which showed that, whoever else was under misapprehension as to the grave step he was asking the House to take, he himself entertained no such misapprehension, because he spoke of "drastic compulsion." He admitted, what of course he was obliged to admit, that no Motion such as this was ever before proposed in the whole history of the British Parliament. Having admitted the gravity of the step, the right hon. Gentleman was under the obligation, of course, of proving to the House a case of absolute necessity to justify the proposal. Unless he was in a position to show that the Government had no alternative, and that it was in such a position that it must propose this course, then he could put forward no really adequate justification for this "drastic compulsion" and absolutely unprecedented Motion. What was the necessity which compelled the Government to propose this Motion? Was there any necessity? He had been looking at the facts and figures connected with this matter for the last seventeen years. The House of Commons, it was true, in most of these years met a little earlier than it met this year, but in the whole of the seventeen cases the Government had no difficulty whatever in obtaining necessary Supply before March 31st, and no difficulty in allowing an adequate, or a fairly adequate, number of days for the discussion of Supply. Taking these seventeen years he found that the average number of days allowed had been about twelve or thirteen. This year already there had been some six days devoted to Supply, and, in the ordinary course, before March 31st there would be five, six, or more days still, so that the average number of days discussion before March 31st could be afforded this year, notwithstanding the fact that the House met late.

It was true, as the right hon. Gentleman mentioned in his speech, that in recent years the Government had been obliged before the end of the financial year to ask for certain special powers. He would ask the House to consider the circumstances of some of those years, and the kind of powers the Government asked. During some of the years to which he was alluding what was called obstruction was rampant in the House. No Government within the last few years had ever had to face anything like the obstruction and the vigorous opposition which Governments had to face in the years he was alluding to. What were the expedients which were found sufficient by those Governments to overcome the circumstances with which they were faced? The ordinary expedient was the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule. The Prime Minister, in his allusion to him (Mr. Redmond), had quite unintentionally misrepresented what he suggested last night. He never suggested a succession of all-night sittings. During the past seventeen years the twelve o'clock rule had been suspended in about twelve of them on two or three nights. How many all-night sittings had there been? Very few. When the right hon. Gentleman felt himself in difficulty he had come to the House and asked for special powers.

He had asked the House to suspend the twelve o'clock rule on two occasions, and what was the result? All-night sittings? Nothing of the kind. On those two occasions the House never sat later than one o'clock. The power of suspending the twelve o'clock rule, coupled, of course, with capable management of the business of the House with a spirit of consideration and conciliation and of give and take on the part of the Leader of the House, had in the past enabled Governments, which had to face greater difficulties than the present Government, to get through their Supply in time.

What had suddenly happened to change the circumstances? What had suddenly happened to compel the right hon. Gentleman to discard the expedients of past years and to come down and make this startling proposition to the House? Allusion was made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife to the fact that the House met late this year. He did not base his argument on that at all. The House met late, but he thought it was more or less irrelevant to enter into a discussion whether the right hon. Gentleman was right or wrong in summoning Parliament a week later this year than last. The fact that it met late this year was not a justification for the position in which the Government found itself, and no justification for this Motion. He found, in looking through these years, that there had been several occasions on which the House met even later than this year, and that, notwithstanding the extraordinary difficulties with which they were faced, the Government of the day was able to complete Supply satisfactorily by March 31st. In 1889, the House did not meet until February 21st and fourteen days were devoted to Supply—far over the average—and yet Supply was completed by March 31st by the simple expedient of suspending the twelve o'clock rule one or two evenings. In 1901, the House met on February 14th, and sixteen days were occupied by Supply before March 31st. The Government got the business through then without any extraordinary Resolution of this kind. In 1903, the House did not meet until February 17th and twelve days were allotted to Supply, which was completed by March 31st. What was the reason why the expedients which were sufficient during the last twenty years, and even when the House met later than it did this year, were not sufficient now? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife had stated what was the only reason for this change. Was it not treating constitutional questions and the position of Parliament in a somewhat trivial and unworthy manner for the Prime Minister to come down and propose an absolutely new precedent which might be quoted through all time in future against the liberty of debate in this House, simply because his Whips told him that he could not get his followers to attend in their places? The right hon. Gentleman felt that if he suspended the twelve o'clock rule and discussion went on till one or two in the morning, his followers might not attend. The right hon. Gentleman thought it was safer in his desperate effort to prolong the life of this Government to run no risk of that sort, but to propose a radical change in the rules of the House. The Prime Minister, who was Leader of the House, and was supposed, above all men in it, to be the guardian of its rights and liberties, and in a special way of the rights of the minority in this House, came forward, regardless of the danger of proposing a new precedent, and proposed that the immemorial constitutional practice of the House should be violated.

The rule which the right hon. Gentleman proposed was far more extraordinary and unconstitutional than the original guillotine rule passed a few years ago. The original guillotine rule was proposed under entirely different circumstances. Formal notice of it was given on February 21st, and it was not discussed until April 11th. The House of Commons had two months notice of the rule before it was called upon to discuss it. Four days were given to the discussion of the rule, and yet it was less drastic than the one the right hon. Gentleman now proposed. In the first place the guillotine rule provided that it could not come into operation at all until twenty-three days had been devoted to the discussion of the Estimates. There was no proposal in the new rule at all with regard to the number of days. As he understood the rule, the right hon. Gentleman, if he carried it to-day, might cease to put down Supply for discussion except upon the occasions when the guillotine was to fall.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think not.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND said he did not think he was wrong. That was one strong argument why they ought to have had notice of this Resolution. The Resolution, unless amended, provided for no discussion of the Estimates at all. It provided that on March 27th the guillotine was to fall. There was nothing to say that the Supply on which the guillotine was to fall need be set down for discussion before March 27th. In that way it did not provide for any discussion of those Estimates except upon the occasion on which the guillotine was to fall. Therefore, it was more drastic than the original rule which provided for twenty-three days discussion of the Estimates before it came into operation. But it was far more drastic, inasmuch as it provided for the guillotine falling on the Second and Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. Now, the Consolidated Fund Bill had always been regarded as one of those occasions on which hon. Members were entitled to exercise their constitutional right of discussing various grievances. Private Members had had their rights of discussion curtailed, and the one opportunity remaining for discussing the various matters in which they were concerned was on the Second and Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. That was to be guillotined at a certain hour on March 23rd. No discussion was to be allowed except for two or three hours. He had been watching for twenty-five years the distinct decline in the efficiency of the House of Commons, and its steady decline in the estimation of the public outside. Year by year he had seen the rights of private Members trenched upon and filched away; and now, under this rule, it might be taken as true that their rights had ceased altogether. "Expedient" was an ominous term. The closure and the guillotine had been borrowed from Continental Parliamentary practice to destroy freedom of speech here, where freedom of speech used to be a cherished boast. The right of ventilating grievances had always been held to precede the right of voting supplies. That was a fundamental right which had been won by the fortitude and heroism of their forefathers; and now, casually, at six or eight hours notice a Prime Minister of England came down, and, for no other reason than that his own Party would not attend so as to enable him to continue in office, proposed this Resolution which filched away the fundamental rights of private Members. This was done by a Minister who knew perfectly well that he had lost the confidence of the country; and by a condemned House of Commons which was waiting for the hour of its extinction to chime.

He did not attribute the whole of the situation in which the House found itself to the right hon. Gentleman or to his Government. If the Government changed to-morrow and a new set of Ministers took their place, he knew perfectly well that they would feel the pressure of the new conditions which had arisen. The plain truth was, and he had said it over and over again on recent occasions and in past years, that the House of Commons was physically unable to perform one-tenth of the important duties which the changed conditions of the Empire had thrown upon it. They had heard much recently of devolution, of Home Rule all round, and of Home Rule for Ireland as he and his colleagues understood it and as they demanded it. He knew that he could not discuss that question now; but, after all, in his opinion, this was in its essence a Home Rule debate, if, such a proposal as this was—he would not say necessary—but was even discussable in the House of Commons, it meant that there was no alternative between, on the one side, lightening the load of this House, or, on the other side, destroying, past recovery, this Parliament, and lowering it to the level of an Assembly whose only duty was to record the pre-arranged decrees of a clique of Gentlemen who, for the moment, were in possession of office, but who knew themselves that they did not possess the confidence of the electorate. That was a position of contempt and degradation for the House of Commons to be in. That was the position which the House of Commons would have to face in the future—and increasingly in the future, whatever Government held the reins of power—unless the other alternative was adopted, which he knew would eventually be adopted, of lightening the load of this Assembly and confining its operations to the great matters affecting the welfare of the Empire. For these reasons he begged to move the Motion standing in his name.

Mr. CHURCHILL (Oldham) said he was very glad indeed to be permitted to second the Motion made by the hon. Member for Waterford. It was a Motion moved by the hon. Gentleman with great propriety, because every Member of the House of Commons would realise that the Party to which that hon. Gentleman belonged had, consistently and with hardly a break for a great number of years, defended the freedom of debate and discussion in this House. And he would venture to express the hope that that Party would not weary from their labours in the cause of freedom of debate even though a general election were to result in a change of Government. They were now asked to participate and to acquiesce in another blow at and abridgment of the liberties of the House which had been so frequent in recent years, and which had so greatly distinguished the existing Parliament. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury had never changed his Party; but he had often changed his opinions. They were now witnessing, in his treatment of the House of Commons, a conversion on the part of the right hon. Gentleman to the extreme Radical doctrine of twenty or twenty-five years ago. He was reading the other day in a book a speech made by the hon. Member for Northampton in 1882, in which that hon. Gentleman was expounding the democratic creed, as interpreted in those days. The hon. Gentleman's view was that there ought to be very frequent elections; certainly once every three years; that certain measures should be presented to the people at these elections; that they should be submitted to a plebiscite, and, if the people approved of them, that then they should pass, the Ministry having thereby received an imperative mandate, and, representing a majority, discussion was, therefore, useless. Now, he did not agree with these doctrines, and he thought there were a great many in the House who were called advanced politicians who would not be inclined to use the argument in that form; but, even if they had all the advantages of triennial Parliaments, even if they had these special mandates, and even if they were dealing with a measure of which the country was in favour, he did not think they ought to assent to a doctrine which was absolutely subversive of all the fundamental principles of the English Constitution and prejudicial to the discussions in the House. How much less ought they to consent to the abrogation of the liberties of the House when there was no mandate whatever for the proceedings of the Government; and whereas, instead of having triennial Parliaments, this Parliament was entering on its fifth year, and when the Government itself did not pretend to claim that they had the confidence of the country in what they were doing. Why should they accept this abrogation of their liberties even if proposed by a First Lord of the Treasury, who represented the Constitutional and Conservative Party?

The right hon. Member for East Fife had said that this Resolution did not stand alone; that it was a step in a series, and part of a regular policy. Surely hon. Gentlemen who had been listening to the debates of this and last session would remember the discussions on the Licensing Bill. There was almost an exact parallel between the conduct of the Prime Minister in regard to that important measure and his conduct in regard to Supply before Easter. The plan was a very simple one. Parliament was called together very late, or the Government Bills were introduced very late. No care was taken of debate in the earlier stages. The Prime Minister never attended in his place; he never condescended to give the House the benefit of his guidance at any stage of these proceedings. He never used his persuasive and dialectical arts to get business forward, and to make those arrangements which enabled the minority to take part in the government of the country. Then, all of a sudden, in the privacy of his room, the right hon. Gentleman was told that Supply was in arrears, or that the Licensing Bill would take too long to pass. And, on that ground, and that ground alone, the right hon. Gentleman came down to the House of Commons and proposed a special Resolution; and the guillotine Resolution was enforced. He should like to know what conceivable species of Parliamentary business could not be arbitrarily curtailed and closured by this simple plan? Now, because the Administration could not make up their mind as to their Army policy, the Army Estimates were just presented to the House. The Supplementary Estimates, which were fertile in the possibilities of unexpected divisions, had been postponed, and the Navy Estimates, on which the Government had a majority, had been put very prominently in the forefront. He had listened to all these debates, and he could tell the right hon. Gentleman that there had been just as many speeches made from his own side of the House as from that side; and he would also tell the right hon. Gentleman that, though probably he had not heard them for himself, sometimes for two hours at a time there had been a continuation of obstructive speeches from the Government benches. Could the right hon. Gentleman deny that?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes. [Opposition cries of "Oh, oh!"]

*Mr. CHURCHILL said that now they saw why the right hon. Gentleman took such care to be very seldom in the House. It was in order that when he was asked a very awkward Question he might pretend that he knew nothing about it. As to the debates on the Navy Estimates, the Secretary to the Admiralty very courteously occupied twice or three times as much time as any other Member of the House. But he understood the right hon. Gentleman did not put forward any charge of obstruction. What, then, was the unusual cause this year which made this extraordinary procedure necessary? What had been the feature of the debates? Empty benches opposite. On numerous occasions he had observed only a dozen hon. Gentlemen opposite. They were sick at heart. Although they were ready to vote they did not pay any attention to the arguments used in debate. Even on the debate on the Navy the hon. Member for Northampton moved a count because only fifteen Members were present. They were asked to dwell on the unprecedented virtues of the Government. They heard a good deal about March 31st, for the right hon. Gentleman liked these laws with respect to dates. He was very respectful of the law of August 12th—anything which marked a period when he could get away from the House of Commons and discussion seemed naturally sacred in his eyes. After all, the law of March 31st existed on the authority of Parliament and the House of Commons, and were not the laws and procedure of that House also of some sanctity and value? Why should they always be brushed aside? The ordinary remedy for getting through this business would be to sit up late. The right hon. Gentleman threw great scorn on that practice, which was not very satisfactory or comfortable. But an elaborate procedure was the only method by which a minority could defend itself and assert its influence in the government of the country, so that the doings of Parliament should have a national character—an elaborate procedure which gave the minority an opportunity of questioning the proceedings of the majority at many stages, and imposed on the majority certain obligations of exertion and even sacrifice in order that they might show the earnestness of their convictions. The present proposals were foreign to the traditions of the Conservative Party, which for many years inveighed against this sort of procedure. Moreover, that Party would not always be in the majority, and invasions of the procedure of the House were very rarely recovered. Why should they not sit up a few nights? He was not sure that an all-night sitting caused bad feeling in the House, sometimes a feeling of comradeship sprang up which afterwards remained and made the course of business thereafter somewhat easier. Large blocks of business were invariably got through after an all-night sitting had taken place.

What was the new fact this year which impelled the Prime Minister to make these proposals? It was that there was a complete demoralisation of the cohesive forces in the Unionist Party, who would not consent to make any real sacrifice of their convenience or comfort to keep the

Government in power; and the more discredited the Government was in the country the more desperate and revolutionary was the procedure which it was compelled to resort to in the House of Commons. What did the Government represent? He did not attach much importance to the mandate, but every one knew that the election was fought on the specific issue of the war. The Prime Minister himself had become Prime Minister by methods by which only a very small minority of Prime Ministers had ever succeeded to that great office. He had never come forward and led his Party to victory at the polls; he received his great office as a private inheritance, and his title was going to be contested in the high court of appeal. The Government did not represent the country, nor even their own Party—not its traditions, which were represented by men like the right hon. Member for Bristol, not its ideals, which were represented by the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich, not its appetites and ambitions, those were represented on the third bench below the gangway by the right hon. Member for Birmingham. They did not represent even the talent of their Party; they were a Government of Under-Secretaries and of private secretaries.

*Mr. SPEAKER: This is not the occasion for a general indictment of the Government on all grounds.

Mr. CHURCHILL said the Prime Minister knew perfectly well that the object of all these manœuvres was merely to retain in power for a few weeks, or it might be months, an Administration which feared to face the verdict of the country. He did not dispute the power of the right hon. Gentleman. When Gladstone and Disraeli formed Governments they had to make accommodation with many distinguished men who shared and divided the authority of their chiefs, but the present Prime Minister, on the other hand, was absolutely supreme. There was not a single right hon. Gentleman in the Cabinet who would venture to stand against him for a moment. The right hon. Gentleman could dismiss his colleagues in droves and batches and fill their places with others without the public service suffering in the least or the reputation of the Government being in the slightest degree diminished. The right hon. Gentleman had brought forward a Motion which fitted in with the general scheme of his new procedure rules. Those rules were framed in the interests of those who were most seldom there, who were most frequently wearied of debate, in the interest of men of leisure and of pleasure who liked to belong to the House of Commons because it invested them with a serious character they would not otherwise possess. The injury which the Prime Minister had thus done to the House of Commons would, he ventured to say, be remembered long after even the extravagance of his Administration had been forgotten by the country. He did not think the Opposition would be great losers, whatever might be the result of the division. Although, as he had pointed out in the previous session, it was in the power of the right hon. Gentleman to remain in office so long as his majority would vote with servility on general occasions, did the right hon. Gentleman think he would be much better in the end? The very Parliamentary manœuvres by which the right hon. Gentleman retained himself in power would be one of the principal reasons why numbers of voters would be induced to transfer their allegiance to the Liberal Party at the next election. He calculated at the end of the last session that the Conservative or Unionist Party paid as the privilege of being represented by their leaders a rent of about one thousand votes each Parliamentary day. That was mounting up to a considerable figure. The Opposition had no reason, from a partisan point of view, for regretting any Parliamentary manœuvre, however ingenious, however discreditable, however revolutionary, which the right hon. Gentleman might see fit to introduce. It was not purely from a Party point of view that this Motion had been discussed. It had been discussed in the interests of the House of Commons as a whole. The right hon. Gentleman had adjured the House to support the proposal in the interests of the dignity of the House of Commons. If he (Mr. Churchill) had to choose between the interests of the dignity of the House of Commons and its freedom, he would pronounce for its freedom. It could not enjoy real dignity unless its debates were free. He was certain that the Motion of the hon. Member for Waterford, whatever fate it might meet with here, would receive earnest approbation in the country, and when the opportunity came—as come it must—the nation would testify its gratitude to all who had endeavoured to vindicate the liberties of Parliament.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That,' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'this House declines to sanction any proposal to further arbitrarily curtail discussion of Supplies and of the various stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill as a violation of the constitutional rights of the House."—(*Mr. John Redmond.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'in order to' stand part of the Question."

MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER (Cumberland, Eskdale) (who spoke amid great interruption and loud cries of Wanklyn) said that the hon. Member for Oldham had occupied some considerable time, but after all what had he said? After all his oratorical efforts, after inveighing against the Prime Minister, the hon. Member told the House with tears in his throat that the 31st of March came every year, and that where there was a Government there must always be an Opposition. The speech of the hon. Member might be described as a plot of platitudes and a lot of attitudes. He, himself, had no desire to prolong the debate, but he thought that if the hon. Member curtailed his observations he would find that his audience on the Unionist benches would gradually grow larger and that there would be more time to discuss those questions which the hon. Gentleman himself considered to be of such vital importance.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said he had only a few Questions to put to the Government. First of all he wished to know whether when this Motion was passed it was the intention of the Government to abolish the dinner hour as established by the new rules. The second question was whether they intended to pass a rule with regard to the limitation of speeches. And the third was whether, if this rule was passed, the House was to conclude that it was the winding-up order of this Parliament; whether, having concluded these measures of Supply by March 31st, it was the intention of the Government to appeal to the country to see whether it still approved of the plans of the Government for the carrying on of the business of the country. If this procedure was proposed in order to hasten the dissolution of this Parliament that would be a good reason for not opposing this rule. Those were the Questions he desired to put to the Government, and if the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer could not reply to them at once he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister would give a serious Answer to them before the debate concluded.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) interjected an observation which did not reach the gallery.

MR. BROADHURST: Then we shall oppose you.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Of course.

MR. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland) said he took a very serious view of the proposal made by the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister, and on the previous night or early that morning he called attention to the fact that the right hon. Gentleman did not even think it worth while to read the terms of his Resolution to the House. Had it not been for the fact that the hon. Member for Oldham had obtained a copy of the Motion from the Clerk at the Table, the House would have been in complete ignorance as to its terms until that morning. As it was, hon. Members were called upon at five hours notice to discuss what must be described as a revolutionary change in the rules of the House. The right hon. Gentleman the First Lord of the Treasury had had to acknowledge that this was the first time that the closure of debate had been proposed in connection with the Supplementary Estimates. If there was one debate in this House which ought not to be curtailed it was the debate upon the Supplementary Estimates. What were the Supplementary Estimates?

They might represent two things, either a new set of events demanding a new expenditure, to which nobody could object, or they might represent, which was mostly the case, gross miscalculation on the part of those who framed the financial statements of the country. It was true that the Supplementary Estimates this year were rather lower than they were in the previous year, but that only showed that such a Resolution as that before the House was not necessary. In 1893–4 the Supplementary Estimates were only £592,000; in 1894–5, they were £655,000. But since that date the Supplementary Estimates had never been under £2,000,000, and on one occasion, in the year 1903–4, they reached £4,610,000. A Supplementary Estimate of nearly £5,000,000 was to all intents and purposes a second Budget, and ought to be subjected to the same severity and length of criticism as a Budget. Therefore the House was now in this position, that the Prime Minister was leaving to any future Finance Minister an opportunity for proposing a second Budget in one year in the shape of Supplementary Estimates, and at the same time depriving the House of Commons of the right of full discussion, which lay at the very basis of its history and institution. While he felt bound to speak with some severity of the policy of the Prime Minister, he did not wish to speak with any severity of the right hon. Gentleman himself. The Prime Minister by his charm of manner had been able to get this House to do things which a less popular Minister would have been stopped from even proposing. The right hon. Gentleman reminded him of four lines of his illustrious countryman, Sir Walter Scott—

> "Like the bat of Indian brakes,
> His pinions fan the wound he makes;
> And soothing thus the sufferer's pain,
> He draws the life-blood from the vein."

By his personal courtesy and easy-going and affable manner the Prime Minister had been able to get the House, session after session, to surrender some of its most valuable principles and traditions. What had been the result? He had already referred to Supplementary Estimates; he would now take Votes on Account. When he first entered Parliament, before that Assembly had been demoralised by the Prime Minister, Votes on Account were seldom for more than six weeks, and rarely for a larger sum than from £3,000,000 to £5,000,000. But in 1897 the Government obtained a Vote of Credit for £10,300,000, and covering four months of Parliamentary time, while on one occasion there was a Vote of Credit for no less than £21,500,000, and covering a period of five months. In other words, Votes on Account, which were always discussed and decided in one day of Parliamentary time, had risen to such a point that nearly one-fourth of the entire revenue of the country was allowed only one day's discussion. The right hon. Gentleman was also responsible for the guillotine which followed the twenty-three days of Supply. Did the House realise—he was confident the country did not—that in every session of Parliament millions of money were voted without a single hour's discussion?

Reference had been made to the embarrassments of previous Ministries with regard to legislation and those of the present Government with regard to finance. Embarrassments with regard to legislation were important only if the legislation was important. But the importance of legislation was infinitesimal as compared with the importance of finance. One Minister could propose legislation in one direction, and his successor in another; but expenditure outlasted Parliaments and Ministries, and went on for ever. The proper control of expenditure was the main and supreme function of the House of Commons, and any attack upon its power in that direction was far more serious than any attack upon its liberty of discussion with regard to legislation. In four sessions of Parliament £116,000,000 had been voted without a single hour's discussion.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. Member will be in order on this Motion in reviewing the general effect of the Supply rule; his observations must be confined to the Amendment.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR said his contention was that this Motion was only a part of a general policy for which the right hon. Gentleman was responsible and which he had relentlessly pursued. From that policy there had naturally followed want of supervision, which meant want of economy. In the last ten years the revenue of the country had increased from £107,000,000 to £177,000,000; Army and Navy expenditure had risen from £36,500,000 to £86,500,000; and the liabilities of the State had swollen from £738,000,000 to £948,000,000. Those figures showed that the curtailment of debate for which the Prime Minister was mainly responsible had led to an appalling increase in the burden of the nation. What would be the result if the House were precluded from discussing Supplementary Estimates? It was only necessary to look at the fate of another Empire. He could foresee a time, if this policy was continued, when an Alexieff of the Treasury bench would lead this country into the same morass of blood and bankruptcy into which another Minister had led another Empire. Whenever he was in the smallest difficulty the Prime Minister laid his hands upon immemorial traditions and usages of the House. He had failed to give any reason whatever for this Motion. With the least tact, conciliation, and conference, the right hon. Gentleman could have got his necessary Votes before the legal day, probably without a single all-night sitting. It had been suggested by some Members that the Motion was rendered necessary by the delay in the Army Estimates caused by dissensions, while others declared it to be due to the reluctance of the supporters of the Government to tear themselves away from their social amusements. Whatever the real reason might be, was it not too bad that the Leader of the House, the custodian of its liberties and traditions, should not hesitate to propose a rule such as no Prime Minister had ever proposed before. The right hon. Gentleman seemed really not to care what happened, so far as Parliament was concerned. After him, the deluge. If he was in a difficulty, his idea was to smash this rule, break this tradition, violate this law, or curtail that liberty. He seemed to think that nothing mattered in this world. Immersed in the metaphysics of his native country, the Prime Minister seemed to regard all sublunary affairs as unworthy of consideration. There was once an invasion of this House by a monarch. Charles I., when he attempted to arrest the five Members, probably thought he was doing as simple and as easy a thing as the Prime Minister apparently imagined he was doing in abolishing the control of Parliament over Supplementary Estimates. The record of that transaction as set forth by the then Clerk of the House was—

> "His Majesty came into the House and took Mr. Speaker's Chair. 'Gentlemen, I am sorry to have this occasion to come unto you——'"

and then the record ended. That Clerk of the House of Commons was a Gentleman entirely after the Prime Minister's heart. Whatever changes might take place in the rules and traditions of this House, the Prime Minister was perfectly satisfied, knowing that in about six weeks or six months in the cold shades of opposition his responsibility would have entirely ceased.

MR. WANKLYN (Bradford, Central) said he had been invited by hon. Members opposite to give his reason for supporting the Government on the present occasion. He found those reasons in speeches delivered during the recess by the right hon. Baronet the Member for Northumberland and the junior Member for Oldham. He did not intend to digress into any personal issue between the hon. Member for Oldham and himself; that could be settled elsewhere than in the House of Commons. But on this question of procedure, in more than one speech the right hon. Baronet and the hon. Member to whom he had referred had stated that it was the duty of the Opposition to block all Government business in that House from the first meeting of Parliament, on the ground that His Majesty's Ministers had exhausted their mandate. Probably the Opposition and himself would not agree as to whether the Government had exhausted their mandate, but they would doubtless agree that Ministers had a mandate to bring about a settlement of affairs in South Africa, and he suggested that affairs there would not be settled until representative government had been granted. There was the case of the Licensing Bill last year, when the Opposition questioned the right of the Prime Minister to introduce the guillotine as he was now doing. He was within the recollection of the House when he said that the Licensing Bill was obstructed until the guillotine was introduced, and not until then did they really get to business. Why was that Bill obstructed? It was said that the Licensing Bill would put into the pockets of the brewers £300,000,000, whereas they knew that since the Act had come into force every brewery share in the country had dropped. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh," and "No, no!"] He was not going to be silenced by clamour, and he was only replying to what had been said by the junior Member for Oldham. When all-night sittings were advocated how far did they contribute to the dignity of the House? Great writers in the leading magazines had asserted that this House was losing respect in the country, and why? Because of the scenes which arose at all-night sittings. Those scenes were amongst the causes which contributed to this loss of respect. As he had said before, so far as the business of this House was concerned no good work could be done after twelve o'clock at night. He begged to thank the Opposition for the courteous way in which they had listened to observations which they themselves had asked for.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he did not think many hon. Members had realised the very stringent character of the Motion of the Prime Minister, and he doubted whether the right hon. Gentleman himself was aware of the wide terms or the possibilities that might arise under the Motion. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford stated that under this Motion it would be possible to put down new Votes in Supply on the very day the guillotine was to fall, and nobody could doubt that that was a fact. But there was an even wider power than this involved in the Motion. It spoke of "any Supplementary Estimates," therefore it was not confined to Supplementary Estimates now before the House. It would be possible for the Government to introduce on the first day of the guillotine an entirely new Supplementary Estimate, which might not up to that time have been within the purview of the House, and then call upon the House to pass it without any consideration and without a word of discussion. He trusted that an ample opportunity would be given to the House of considering the drafting of Amendments, because there were two or three points which he was sure were never intended by the Prime Minister when he gave instructions for the drafting of his Motion, which might bring about an entirely unexpected and unanticipated state of things unless they were allowed to examine the wording and purport of the Motion. He thought the Prime Minister could not deny that the real reason that had induced him to make this stringent Motion was the fact that he dare not face the country or the House of Commons. He was endeavouring to take away the last remaining right of the House to criticise the expenditure of public money. That was the reason why he was afraid of all-night sittings. The fact was the right hon. Gentleman knew that he could not command the support of hon. Members sitting behind him unless they were allowed to come down at stated times. They had seen enough this session of the way the right hon. Gentleman had had to put up hon. Members time after time in order to avoid coming to a decision when the House was ready to do so, and that had contributed to the waste of time during the present session. Was it not time that the Prime Minister should go to the country and cease carrying on this farce any longer?

MR. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.) said he had been listening with interest to the debate, and had expected to hear some defence made of this proposal. Only one defender, however, had spoken, and that was the hon. Member for Central Bradford. If the House thought that he had strengthened the case for the Government they would no doubt express that feeling in the division lobby.

MR. WANKLYN: Hear, hear!

MR. BRYCE said this proposal was unlike any which the Government had made before in two respects: in the first place, it related to money, and in this respect it was a stricter proposal with regard to the Estimates. In the second place, it had not been supported in his opinion by any substantial arguments at all by the Prime Minister. The

Prime Minister had endeavoured to take advantage of his own wrong doing, for he had brought them into a difficult position and now turned round and asked them to give him an advantage. This reminded him of the story of a mountain guide who led his party to a dangerous point and then turned round and said that they must double the pay for his services because they had got into a difficult position. This difficulty was entirely caused by the First Lord of the Treasury, and it was entirely the right hon. Gentleman's fault that they found themselves in their present position. In every other previous case of this kind something like obstruction had been urged as a reason for such a Motion.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am always careful never to allege obstruction unless I am driven to it. But do not let the right hon. Gentleman suppose that I do not think that there was obstruction.

MR. BRYCE said that a more uncandid way of putting it he had never heard.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If by the Parliamentary expression "uncandid" the right hon. Gentleman means to say that I was ambiguous, I now proceed to make it unambiguous and I say that there was obstruction. [OPPOSITION cries of "When?"]

MR. BRYCE said that what he meant to express was that the right hon. Gentleman was not at liberty to take refuge in that phrase, and if he thought there had been obstruction he was bound to state it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I beg pardon.

MR. BRYCE said that when the Prime Minister avowed that there was obstruction he was bound to give his reasons for that statement.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No, I am not bound to do so.

MR. BRYCE said the right hon. Gentleman had a right of reply on this Motion, and he hoped that he would endeavour to collect instances of obstruction from those of his supporters who had been more frequently in the House, and perhaps that would give him an opportunity of fortifying the statement which, to his (Mr. Bryce's) great surprise, he had just made. Speaking for himself he had never seen any obstruction except that which proceeded from hon. Members opposite in their endeavour to avert dangerous divisions. He was not aware of any single case of an hon. Member obstructing except with a view of keeping off a division. It would have been perfectly easy to have finished off the Supplementary Votes in Supply before March 31st without this Motion. Even admitting that the House meeting on February 14th gave too narrow a margin, why did the right hon. Gentleman not bring the House together before that date? Surely it would have been much wiser to have met earlier. He invited the Prime Minister to give them a single case in which a Minister of the Crown had ever appealed to the House to be allowed to comply with the law where that request had been refused. They all remembered how long the debate on the King's Speech had lasted, and how remarkable it was that the Government had made no effort to abridge the debate on the King's Speech. That debate lasted fourteen days, and it would have been quite possible to have curtailed it, because the Government even then had before them all the difficulties which they now alleged as a reason for bringing forward this proposal. What was the motive which induced the Prime Minister to call Parliament together so late, and why had he allowed the debate on the King's Speech to go dawdling on? The only explanation he could see was that the Government were not then ready with their Estimates. That was the most probable explanation, and it was confirmed by the fact that they had not produced the Army Estimates until yesterday morning. The Army Estimates had not been produced so late for a long time, and if there were any particular Estimates that ought to be produced early they were the Army Estimates. They contained not only an additional sum of money, but, what was more important, were changed in form and raised many difficult questions which required more debate than in ordinary years, and, therefore, there was every reason why the House should have had those Estimates at the earliest possible time. He was perfectly certain that the right hon. Gentleman would not traverse that fact. He did not attribute any particular blame to him. He did not know where the blame lay, but that there was blame attaching to the Ministry for not producing the Army Estimates until yesterday no one could deny. The right hon. Gentleman had offered an opportunity for the discussion of Army policy upon another date, but that was not the same thing as a debate upon the first two Votes. There was unreality about discussion after the Votes were passed. It was not the opportunity the House had a right to expect.

There were other methods of getting through business in time. The use of the ordinary closure might have been sufficient if applied with tact and judgment, and when it was rendered necessary because Members opposite had wasted time to postpone a division. Saturday sittings to expedite business had in old days frequently been resorted to. Personally disagreeable such sittings were to Members, but they were a far less evil than the measure now proposed. By an exchange of the Wednesdays after Easter the Government might have secured time within the financial year. There was no precedent for asking the House to adopt such a Resolution without allowing time to formulate Amendments, nor for curtailing discussion of the Estimates in this manner, except at the end of the session. A mixture of recklessness with indolence in Leadership had brought about the present difficulty. The First Lord of the Treasury had used a remarkable expression in his speech that night, namely, that they could not go back to the easy-going methods of old times. The methods of old days were not easy-going; the Leaders of the House of thirty, forty, or fifty years ago were not easy-going men; they took pains, they looked ahead, they were not caught by the tide of time, they used their opportunities, they had their supporters ready, and had time for any important unexpected question that might arise. It was because forethought, care, and use of opportunities had been neglected during recent years of Leadership that the House found itself in this difficulty.

The country generally probably did not understand the complicated procedure of the House, and therefore there was the more reason that the House should have a scrupulous regard for it. A change of procedure of this kind amounted to change of constitution; it removed a safeguard for debate and proper conduct of business the wisdom of previous Parliaments had thought necessary. Changes hitherto made had been justified by undue prolongation of debate, but no such defence could be made of the innovation now attempted. The Prime Minister, on a previous occasion, when making another revolutionary proposal in regard to their financial debates—when the Votes were being slumped — quarrelled very much with him because he ventured to say that it was by control over finance that the privileges of the House were originally established, that it was by being the guardian of the public purse that the House gave protection to the ratepayers, and that every change in their privileges which affected money was a question of the utmost gravity. The right hon. Gentleman had said that conditions were now quite different. It was true that the forms in which the danger appeared were different from age to age, but it would generally be found that the substance and principle remained very much the same. The control of money, and the responsibilities attaching to Supply, had always been a vital and central point in the powers and duties of the House, and wherever they were being affected the House ought to be doubly watchful. He did not suggest that the dangers now were such as in old days the House had to contend with; but there was grave danger to economy and efficient administration if the House cultivated a habit of negligence and blind obedience to the Government of the day, abrogating thereby its first duty. Every proposal which tended to weaken the interest of the House in financial matters and subjected its voting to abnormal conditions tended to destroy its sense of responsibility and duty to secure economy and prevent the imposition of unnecessary burdens on the nation, and was an injury to the Constitution.

The hon. Member for Oldham had said that this was not a Party question.

He himself did not desire to treat it as a Party question, and he wished to make an appeal to the Party opposite. Bad habits were easily formed, and surely no one would deny that it was a bad habit to become reckless in the voting of money. At the present time the Conservative Party considered itself in a special way the guardian of property, restraining any undue taxation of the rich, and all the dangers that might follow therefrom. He could imagine that a time might come—although the older Members of the House might not live to see it—when there would be a Party in that House very anxious to impose heavy taxation on the rich, and to employ the resources of the State for the benefit of the masses in a way which the property-holding classes would greatly resent. Would it not be a great danger if there should be in those days a tyrannical Ministry, or a majority, anxious to carry out proposals with a high hand and to stifle the voice of criticism, and if they were able to cite this precedent set by a Conservative Government for shortening debate, for diminishing the opportunities of discussion, and making it easier to carry strong and tyrannical measures? He hoped such a condition of things would not arise, but if it did the property-holding classes would have grave reason to regret the policy of the present Prime Minister. He believed the present proposal of the right hon. Gentleman was another step, and a great step, towards the degradation of the House of Commons and the restriction of its powers in the performance of important functions. Those who would have most reason to regret the change were those who valued the traditions of the House, and who knew how precious were the traditions of liberty.

Mr. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said the First Lord of the Treasury was very difficult to satisfy. If they talked on the proposals which were made he charged them with obstruction, and if they were silent they were guilty of a manœuvre in order to get a snap division. Which was it that the First Lord wished? If he would daily put out a list of those whom he desired to speak they would do their best to satisfy him. They could not be both silent and speak. What was the real aim of the Motion? The right hon. Gentleman said that it was necessary to get through certain business before March 31st. It was quite conceivable that the House should get through that business without any charge of obstruction being made. The real reason of the proposal was to be found in the speech which the First Lord of the Treasury made last July at a private dinner given downstairs by certain of his own supporters. At that dinner the First Lord of the Treasury used these remarkable words—

> "The results of the by-elections were not the most serious dangers in the path of the Unionist Government. The most apparent danger was want of loyalty on the part of some of the Unionist Members."

And then the right hon. Gentleman went on to say that he would not unduly burden his followers even in that session or in the next; and in return—let the House observe this—he expected from them that loyalty in the division lobbies—that loyalty which would enable the Government to carry their programme to a successful issue. The right hon. Gentleman was fulfilling to the letter that pledge not to be a burden on his followers, and demanded in return that high loyalty in the division lobbies which he had asked for last year. The right hon. Gentleman had had his experience in the division lobbies, and had told his followers that neither their pains nor their joys could be prolonged. Then the right hon. Gentleman came down to the House with a following 260 strong—he had never had his followers 260 strong before—at an early hour, and had kept them there in order to exercise his brutal mastery over the Opposition. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman believed that the future dignity of Parliament was to be maintained by these methods, but he was sure that the right hon. Gentleman was destroying all true interest in the working of the House of Commons. He had been in the House for ten years and could say that in the course of the last few years there had been no inducement to any Member to undertake any sort of serious work, and at that moment the position was worse than ever. Day by day they were waiting to see this Government fall to pieces. It was only by the most extraordinary exertions that the right hon Gentleman had been able to keep together a Party composed of discontented free-traders and discontented protectionists. He had only kept them together by coercing a minority, and had now in this last effort achieved the triumph of his purpose. The right hon. Gentleman had brought down his large majority, and they were receiving the reward for their pains by enjoying to the full the humiliation of the minority.

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said he must agree with some of the hon. Gentlemen who had spoken in saying that there was much in those rules that he did not like. It was a very hateful necessity that such measures should be introduced at all. But was it not really a farce that hon. Gentlemen opposite should say they were keenly anxious to discuss the Supplementary Estimates, while they were wasting the whole of that day and probably to-morrow. If hon. Members could only be reasonable for once there would be other two days on which to discuss the details of the Estimates, the discussion on the principles having already taken place. Certain Members on the other side of the House were determined to put every difficulty in the way of passing Government measures. In 1894, when he took some interest in the Opposition of the time, they always allowed these matters to go through because they did not involve questions of Party politics, but rather of routine. This the Opposition of that day did, although the Government was weak and had not the mandate of the country as was proved very soon afterwards. If hon. Gentlemen opposite were keen to discuss every shilling on these Estimates there was ample time to do it even if the Resolution was passed. Even if the Opposition gained a Party advantage by these discussions, the country did not care for them. It only desired the House to get through with its business in a reasonable manner.

*Mr. JOHN ELLIS said that the hon. Member who had just sat down had trotted out the proceedings in 1894, and he noticed that his remarks were cheered by some hon. Members opposite. But the conditions in 1894 were entirely different from those now existing, when a great revolution was being promoted in the Army and the Resolution of the Prime Minister would affect discussion on the Army Estimates. He had been for many years sitting opposite the First Lord of the Treasury, and had watched him very carefully all that time. He had always admired the right hon. Gentleman, but that afternoon the Prime Minister had surpassed himself. When the right hon. Gentleman gave notice last midnight of this Resolution he had ventured to interject the word "unprecedented." In the course of the very warm conversation which followed the right hon. Gentleman stated that he could brush that word aside, and produce precedents for this Resolution; but he had entirely failed to do so; at any rate he had made no attempt to bring forward any precedent for this Resolution. At Question time yesterday the right hon. Gentleman used the following words: "I cannot at the moment give the terms of the Resolution which I shall move, though I hope to announce them to-night before the adjournment of the House." At midnight, instead of reading the terms of the Resolution, he merely laid it on the Table, and then they witnessed the unseemly spectacle of an hon. Member having to go down to the Table and get the terms of the Motion and read them out. That was unworthy of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the House. Why did not the right hon. Gentleman read out the terms of the Motion to the House as he specifically promised to do? And why were they not, in the usual manner, supplied elsewhere? Why should they have this sort of elusiveness, the real reason of which everybody knew? All the great Leaders of the House had been frank and open with the House, from Mr. Disraeli downwards, except the right hon. Gentleman.

This Resolution was most unprecedented in the way in which it was introduced; and the right hon. Gentleman had admitted, by his silence, that it was unprecedented in its nature. The Resolution was a very wide one, and went very far. He did not know how many hon. Members had made themselves masters of its whole scope. He freely confessed that, though it was his business to look into such matters, it had taken him a good deal of time before he realised the whole scope of the Resolution. It had fifty-two lines to begin with. It dealt not only with Votes in Supply, but with all the stages of the Consolidated Fund Bill. Every one knew that the stages of that Bill offered a very wide and open door for discussion of various matters. He maintained that to adopt a drastic procedure on the Second and Third Readings of the Consolidated Fund Bill—the first that came before the House during the session—was to closure the House in a way which was perhaps only imperfectly realised. Worse than that, while the business to which this Resolution appertained was under the consideration of the House nothing else could be raised. There could be no Motion for adjournment, or Motion to report Progress, or Motion that the debate be adjourned. It was, in effect, a blocking Motion of the most drastic character. The House of Commons was for ten days at the entire mercy of the Executive Government. Not a single question could be raised either on foreign or domestic matters while this Resolution remained in force.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is quite incorrect.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS: Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman will explain?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It is incorrect because private Members' rights are not interfered with, and the adjournment of the House can be moved.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS said that that was no answer to his argument at all. So far as Government time was concerned the Motion would operate exactly as he had stated. It was a matter which concerned the House of Commons at large. Perhaps hon. Gentlemen opposite would not give him credit for sincerity when he stated that he viewed the Motion primarily from that aspect. He had sat on both sides of the House, and it had been his lot on occasions to differ from his Leaders, and if they brought forward a Motion of this kind he should certainly differ from them. It was not a question of Party; his objection to the Motion was rooted in the conception of what the functions of the House of Commons should be. Lord Palmerston, who was one of the most successful Leaders the House of Commons ever had, once used the following language—

> "But this House has another function to discharge, and one highly conducive to the public interests—namely, that of being the mouthpiece of the nation; the organ by which all opinions, all complaints, all notions of grievances, all hopes and expectations, all wishes and suggestions which may arise amongst the people at large, may be brought to an expression here, may be discussed, examined, answered, rejected, or redressed."

That was as important a function as either legislation or criticism of the Estimates; and it was because this Motion trenched on that function that he opposed it so resolutely. He was glad the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich was present. The noble Lord had made brilliant contributions to their debates, and he had a distinguished future before him. He recently expressed the opinion that the House of Commons was losing respect for itself. Many hon. Gentlemen opposite in their heart of hearts would vote for this Motion with a great deal of searching of heart. What right had the Government to bring forward a Motion of this kind? They did not represent the opinion of the people at large. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham said that the dissolution had no terrors for him. The dissolution had no terrors for himself; but there were many hon. Gentlemen opposite in a different position. They, at all events, had no authority to pass such a Resolution. The Amendment might be defeated, the Resolution might be carried, but they on that side looked forward with confidence to the time when the present House of Commons would be buried and a new House of Commons would proceed with legislation for the welfare of the people of these islands.

*MR. McCRAE said he wished to know what were the reasons underlying this attack on the privileges of the House of Commons and the freedom of debate. The Prime Minister stated that if this drastic rule were not passed soldiers would not be able to get their pay. It was sickening and revolting that our soldiers should be dragged in as pawns in this Party manœuvre. The Secretary of State for War advanced that argument a few days ago, but it was unworthy of the Prime Minister to follow that example. As a matter of fact, the soldiers would not be paid out of the Army Votes at all. If the Army Votes were to be used for Army purposes they should be put into the Consolidated Fund Bill and all the dates would have to be changed. Instead of the Speaker being out of the Chair on the 28th he would have to be moved out on the 20th. If the right hon. Gentleman desired to comply with the law he should get the Army Votes through and get them included in the Consolidated Fund Act before March 31st. That was not proposed. The right hon. Gentleman was proposing to take money voted for the Civil Service and the Navy in order to discharge expenditure on the Army. What was the only reason for this Motion? It was a confession that with all his large majority the right hon. Gentleman was not able to carry on the business of the country. They repudiated the charge of obstruction which the right hon. Gentleman had made and challenged him to justify his allegations of obstruction by giving an instance when it occurred. His principal reason for rising was to put these points to the right hon. Gentleman and to point out that what the right hon. Gentleman was going to do was, not to comply with the law but, to use the Civil Service and Navy Votes for Army expenditure. If the right hon. Gentleman was unable to carry on the business of Parliament the only alternative consistent with his self-respect and the dignity of Parliament was to appeal to the country.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland) said he did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister intended to reply, but as he had been challenged with regard to his statement as to obstruction of the Liberal Members it was to be hoped he would give some instance where that obstruction had occurred, because the impression was that all the obstruction had come from the Unionist benches, and that it had been organised by the Government Whips. Everyone would admit that there might be occasions when Government was bound to get certain business through the House by a certain date; whether that was the position at present he did not intend to discuss, but it appeared to him that the right hon. Gentleman always adopted the short and lazy way instead of the more legitimate and difficult way which a Prime Minister ought to adopt. There were two alternatives, the expedient of all-night sittings or the other expedient, and he was more in favour of the Leader of the House being always in his place so that he might exercise his judgment and where, in his opinion, there was a prolonged and idle discussion going on, propose the closure. He should not propose such a closure as that set down in this Resolution, which did not discriminate between those discussions which were of no value and those which were of public importance. The hon. Member for North Islington had said that the result of this closure Motion being accepted would be to enable the House to get through certain routine business. The routine business was the discussion of the Army scheme. The right hon. Gentleman had said earlier in the day that there were precedents for the quick discussion of the Army Votes A and 1. That might be so, but was there any precedent for an Army scheme like that before the House being forced through in this way? It was true that the right hon. Gentleman had said he would give time afterwards for discussion on the Army question, but what he was asking the House to do was to consent to the scheme first and to discuss it afterwards, which was analagous to executing the man first and trying him afterwards. He appealed to those eighty Members of the House who were retiring at the end of this Parliament, who might say to themselves, "What does it matter to us? We shall not be closured," to pause before giving a vote on this question, which was likely to change the whole procedure of the House, and think once more of the rights and privileges of the House they were so soon to leave.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N. W.) said he intervened in the debate with some diffidence, he having only been a Member of one Parliament, but rather than lay himself open to the charge of remaining silent at such a crisis he would occupy the time of the House for a few moments. When he heard the hon. Member for Oldham read the Resolution they were now discussing, on the previous evening, he asked himself whether this House had any inherent rights at all? All representative assemblies from parish councils upwards had some rights either in themselves as a body or in their chairman. In the course of his thirty years experience of local representative bodies he had on more than one occasion felt it his duty as chairman to refuse to put motions which he knew were approved by the majority because they interfered with statutory or other rights. But what was the position in the House of Commons? The Prime Minister seemed able to shorten the duration of the session to any extent he pleased, and in the shortened session to curtail the liberties of debate to whatever extent he could get a servile majority to sanction. There was practically no protection for the minority. They had certain supposed rights, some inherent in the House itself and others vested in Mr. Speaker, and in times past Mr. Speaker used often to be called upon to protect the liberties of the House. He could not express in Parliamentary language his opinion of the gravity of the present situation. If he called the Prime Minister a traitor to the country and the constitutional rights of this House he would probably be called to order.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Not at all.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE said he had found a passage in a history of the English people by a well-known historian, which so exactly described the present position that he would venture to read it. The writer, in describing the position of impotence in which a democratic representative Assembly might find itself, said—

> "Even now a Minister might avail himself of the temper of a Parliament elected in a moment of panic, and, though the nation returned to its senses, might simply by refusing to appeal to the country govern in defiance of its will. Such a course would be technically legal, but such a Minister would be none the less a criminal."

Those words were written by John Richard Green. It was difficult to find in history a parallel to the position of the Party opposite. In his early political life Unionists used to boast of being the great Constitutional Party, but he ventured to say that for generations past no Party had done so much to wreck the constitution of the country as the present Government under the leadership of the Prime Minister, who, now that his end seemed to be near, was aiming another blow at the liberties of Parliament as though he would bury himself in the ruins. Samson, with sight destroyed, pulling the idol temple about his ears, was a noble object as compared with the Prime Minister at the present moment. Blindly the right hon. Gentleman rushed on to his fate, each step apparently bringing greater disaster than the last upon the usages and constitution of the House. Whom the gods destroyed they first made mad! It might be thought that for a young Member of the House he used strong language, but he felt compelled to do so because of the crisis in which they found themselves. He had been only five years in Parliament, but all his life he had taken a deep interest in politics. Until he entered Parliament, and for some time afterwards, he looked upon the Prime Minister as a gentleman of consummate ability and the highest honour, who would hold the traditions of the House in the greatest reverence, and be prepared to protect them to the utmost extent. But as year by year passed away that beautiful vision had declined, until now only a very small shadow of it remained. Members were bound to ask themselves where this course of procedure would stop. Each session placed an additional curb on the liberties of the House, and there was nothing to prevent still further encroachments. Whatever might be necessary, in his judgment, to get through the business he chose to put forward the Prime Minister would force upon the House. No doubt as Leader of the House the right hon. Gentleman was entitled to have the disposal of the Parliamentary time largely in his hands, but surely there were other ways of transacting business than by constantly curtailing the liberties of the House of Commons. If they went on at the present rate it would soon be an absolute farce to call the House of Commons a representative Assembly at all.

It was consummate mockery to say that this Resolution was moved in the interests of public business. The fact was that the Prime Minister had determined at all hazards to hold on to office, and two things were necessary to enable him to do it. The first was to hide a great deal of the mismanagement, which none would dispute, in connection with the great public services, the Estimates for which were to come under discussion. These were matters which ought to have the fullest discussion, and if they did have the fullest discussion they would certainly very seriously damage the reputation of the Ministry. Therefore full criticism must be avoided at all hazards. A second thing which the Prime Minister must achieve was to get his followers to the House in order to help him in the division lobby. It was necessary to maintain a watch on the followers of the right hon. Gentleman which it seemed impossible for his gallant Whips to attain, and, therefore, they had decided to appoint the times at which divisions would be taken. The times would be duly notified to the Government supporters, and there would be no opportunity of taking divisions other than at those particular times. He knew that that suited hon. Gentlemen opposite, but it was not consistent with the liberties and privileges of the House. It did not suit them to have full discussion upon vastly important questions of policy, and the details of the Estimates. In order to accomplish this double purpose the House was humiliated by having submitted to it the proposition which they were now discussing. It would not be consonant with his position in that House to make any appeal to the Prime Minister at that stage of the discussion, but surely there must be some Members opposite who regarded the liberties and privileges of the House of Commons as of more value than mere allegiance to Party. Their first concern should be freedom in representative institutions, and he regarded that as the very life of the House of Commons. If this method were continued he was bound to say that they might be driven, as they had been driven before, to meet brute force by brute force. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, Oh!"] He thought they would be unworthy of the name of public representatives if they parted without a most vigorous struggle with their birthright, and if they allowed themselves to be overridden by a majority which paid no regard to the liberties and traditions of the House of Commons.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) said he could not help thinking that if the First Lord of the Treasury had been a little more conciliatory he would have got his Estimates through in good time. In the debate the other day his hon. friend below the gangway asked a question with regard to the Vote of £10,000 for deferred pay, and he asked whether it was not possible to estimate the amount exactly. If the Secretary of State for War had given a satisfactory explanation he had no doubt that his hon. friend would have withdrawn his Motion and the Vote would have been passed before 7.30; but some hon. Members on the opposite side were put up to talk the debate out. He could not understand why it was necessary to propose a Supplementary Estimate for deferred pay. He had asked the opinion of some military officers and they had told him that in their opinion it was quite possible to estimate the amount required to within one single penny. They were now engaged wasting the best part of a day considering how they could best expedite business. If the Prime Minister had made an appeal to them and told them that these Votes must be passed before March 31st, in order to comply with the law, he had no doubt that he would have got them through; or he might have suspended the twelve o'clock rule for one or two nights. The present mode of dealing with the Estimates was a most unfortunate one. Hon. Members were allowed to go on talking time after time, and he had often wondered why the Minister in charge did not move the closure. Certain matters were discussed *ad nauseam* and other Votes were never discussed at all. He trusted that such a Motion as this would never again be made in the House of Commons.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE thought that at any rate the Prime Minister might have replied to the speeches which had been made on the opposite side of the

House on this Amendment. An Amendment had been made by the Leader of the Irish Party, and he thought it was entitled to some reply. What was the right hon. Gentleman's proposition? He had made a proposal which he acknowledged himself to be absolutely unprecedented. He thought he was right in saying that before such a revolutionary change was made there ought at any rate to be some extraordinary reasons of emergency. What did the Prime Minister say? He did not say it was a question of Parliament not having been summoned earlier. Nothing of the sort. The fact was that the Prime Minister had got into the habit of first of all blundering into a certain position and then calling it a Parliamentary emergency. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman was entitled to say that. It was all very well for him to say that he was prepared to apologise and stand in the white sheet of repentance, but that was not the point. Those blunders ended in fixing upon the procedure of the House what he was afraid might become a permanent restriction upon the liberty and freedom of Parliamentary debate. That was an abdication of the right hon. Gentleman's position. The right hon. Gentleman was asked in the course of the debate whether he brought a charge of obstruction against Members of the House. He was asked that because there was no other justification for so complete a reversal of the practice of the House with reference to Supply. He did not say in his speech that there had been obstruction, but in reply to an interjection he said there had. When was the obstruction? He had listened to the debates on Supply, and he ventured to say that there had been nothing in the nature of outrageous prolongation of any debate. Would the Prime Minister point to a single debate which he could so characterise, except one. It was a debate which commenced in the afternoon and the Opposition were prepared to take a division upon it at half-past seven. It referred to a small matter. There was no particular grievance they wished to raise upon it. It was a matter of £10,000 for deferred pay, and there was a Motion to reduce it by £100. Hon. Members on the other side of the House deliberately got up one after another to prevent a division being taken, and time was wasted up to half-past seven, and afterwards the whole of the time from nine to ten o'clock. That was deliberate obstruction, but it was not conducted by Members on his side of the House. This was done by the right hon. Gentleman's own Parliamentary supporters. Was it fair, when there was obstruction on his own side of the House for the purpose of keeping him in office, that their liberties of discussion and criticism should be restricted in this wholesale fashion? But that was not the whole story. The Prime Minister delivered a speech on the night referred to. The right hon. Gentleman's attention having been called to this deliberate wasting of the time of the House, he, though responsible for getting through the business of the House, encouraged it, defended it, and invited it. He said it was perfectly justifiable and practically said, "I hope the same thing will happen again." Could the right hon. Gentleman give a single case where there had been obstruction on the Opposition side of the House? When a Parliamentary offence of that character was charged against the whole of the Opposition, the least that the accuser could do was to give particulars of the charge. The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that the complaint against the Opposition was not that they had prolonged debate, but that they had been too anxious to take divisions. That was true, but that was a very different thing from charging them with obstruction.

Last year before March 15th they had fourteen days debate in Supply; this year they had had seven days up to the present, and yet the right hon. Gentleman came down with this Motion. The real reason, and the right hon. Gentleman knew it perfectly well, was that he dare not summon Parliament before. If it had been summoned one week earlier it would have served the purpose. They would have had three or four days extra discussion, but because the Parliamentary machine was ineffective they must criticise the Estimates less. The Parliamentary majority had become incapable of fulfilling their functions, and therefore they were to have less criticism. Since 1894 the Estimates had been increased by £50,000,000, and the Army Estimates, which were now to be closured, had been almost doubled. The motto of the Prime Minister was that "the more you increase expenditure, the less you ought to criticise it." If hon. Members would look at the Motions introduced by the Prime Minister during recent years they would discover that the increase in expenditure had just kept pace with the decrease in facilities for debate. The right hon. Gentleman knew perfectly well that the Army Estimates this year were totally different from those of former years. His hon. friend the Member for the Northwich Division had referred to the Army scandals revealed by the Auditor-General. When were they going to discuss these? He heard the Secretary of State for War pledge his honour and his position that there were going to be very considerable reductions in the Army Estimates. The right hon. Gentleman said that he would not stand at the Table again if this reduction was not given effect to, for he was not going to outstay his welcome. Where were the considerable reductions? There was an increase of hundreds of thousands of pounds, and Parliament was not going to be allowed to discuss it, except for a few hours. There never was a case in which they ought to have more discussion, and that was the reason why the Prime Minister was going to give them less.

Why was this restriction of debate being imposed? It was because the Prime Minister had not the confidence of his supporters to the extent that he could induce them to give him constant support. The Government were never tired of saying that the Empire depended upon their remaining in office. If that was so, how was it that the great Imperialists could not come down and support the existence of a Ministry on whom the fate of the Empire depended? It was because they did not believe it. The Prime Minister was very adroit in getting out of difficulties. He ought to be, for no man had provided himself with greater practice. But, after all, it did not prove his skill as a Leader of the House. One of the worst types of business men was the man who was the most skilful in preventing insolvency from drifting into bankruptcy. He was always fertile in resources when that stage was reached, but what puzzled any one in contemplating a man of that kind was: Why was this fertility of resource not utilised to prevent him from arriving at that stage? In these Parliamentary tangles the Prime Minister never considered beforehand what he ought to consider—namely, what was the fair amount of time to be apportioned for the discussion of these questions. What the right hon. Gentleman did consider, however, was the amount of discussion that his supporters would stand. The right hon. Gentleman forgot not only that he was the Leader of a Party, but also that he was Leader of the House. He was establishing precedents which were dangerous; he was dealing with a purely temporary and Party difficulty by enforcing a permanent restriction of debate. The Prime Minister did not represent the majority in the House, and knew it very well. His supporters supported him not because they trusted him, but because they disliked each other. The right hon. Gentleman was a kind of buffer State; they preserved his sovereign independence because each wanted to prevent the other from annexing him. Point by point the Prime Minister had actually destroyed the liberty and the freedom of the House, and he had set precedents that could not be followed without materially impairing debate. The absence of great and independent Parliamentarians like the right hon. Member for West Bristol and the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was a serious thing, for they might have been able to give guidance and to tell the right hon. Gentleman that the time had come when these things should come to an end. The Prime Minister was defending a Ministry from which he had lost every distinguished colleague. He was intrenched behind a rampart of fallen comrades. It might be that all these colleagues of the right hon. Gentleman had resigned for different reasons, probably for opposing reasons, but they had all this one impulse in common—and it was an honourable one—they were unable to follow the Prime Minister in staking the interests of the country on the Parliamentary gaming-table in order to wait and see whether something was going to turn up to retrieve the broken fortunes of the Ministry. The country was paying a high price for the Prime

Minister's position. One liberty after another in Parliament was disappearing just to save the Ministry for a few more months; one high tradition after another of public life which constituted the glory of British statesmen had gone. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!"] The expenditure of the country had enormously increased; there was a corrupt bargain with the brewers [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh!" and "Question!"] to buy a few more months of respite, and the country was paying a high price for the dregs of the right hon. Gentleman's Premiership.

MAJOR **SEELY** (Isle of Wight) who spoke amid constant interruption, said that the Prime Minister had told them that morning that he would endeavour to give the House time to discuss the Army Estimates. The First Lord proposed to take the Consolidated Fund Bill on March 23rd, but Vote 1 of the Army Estimates was not to be taken till March 28th, and therefore it could not be put into the Bill. It had nothing to do with complying with the law.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER proceeded to interrupt the business.

Whereupon Mr. A. J. BALFOUR rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 249; Noes, 213. (Division List No. 52.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Chirstch.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (Glasgow
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T. R. (Tower Hamlets
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir J. Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, W. Raymond, (Cambs
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt. Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, A. Howard (Hanley)
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N. W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick W.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn H. L. W. (Mile End

Mr. Lloyd-George.

Lawson,John Grant(YorksN.R
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt.HnSirH.E(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dumfriesshire
Milner, Rt.Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reed, Sir E. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel,Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith,H.C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, Rt. Hn. J. P. (Lanarks)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col SirC.E.H.(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn.SirWilliamH.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow
Wilson-Todd, SirW.H. (Yorks.)
Wodehouse, Rt.Hn. E.R.(Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt.E.C(SAndrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe

Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie(Dumfries
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Carles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Maj J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, RtHn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters(NDorset
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, SirJ.T(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

Question put accordingly, "That the words 'in order to' stand part of the Question."

The House divided :—Ayes, 251; Noes, 211. (Division List No. 53.)

AYES.

Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. HughO
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, RtHnGeraldW (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn SirMichae lHicks
Beckett, Ernest William
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn. JA. (Glasgow
Campbell, J.H.M. (DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hon, Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J.A(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt Hn. Sir John C. R.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile

Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dewar,SirT R(Tower Hamlets)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dickson-Hartland, Sir F.Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt.Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Finlay,SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S.W.)
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby
Gorst,Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Green,Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs
Grenfell, William Henry
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG (Midd'x
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nderry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords, N.W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson,Sir A.(Stafford, W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo.T. Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col. W.

Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence,Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,Hn.H.L.W. (Mile End
Lawson, J. Grant (Yorks. N. R
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt HnSirH.E (Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H. (Dumfriessh'e
Milner,RtHn. Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne

Ratcliff, R. F.
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Roberston, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H (Hertford, East)
Smith,H.C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,RtHn.J.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt Hn JG (Oxf'd Univ.)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,ColSir C.E.H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby,Lt.-ColA.C.E (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H. (Yorks.
Wodehouse,Rt Hn. E. R.(Bath
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.

Ambrose, Robert
Asquith,Rt.Hn.Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott

Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams

Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt E C (S Andrw'sBghs.
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, RtHn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hn John (Montrose)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Maj. J E B (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, RtHn C.R. (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (N Dorset
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr John Redmond and Mr. Churchill.

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence from this Evening's Sitting of Mr. Speaker and of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Whereupon Mr. JEFFREYS, the Deputy-Chairman, took the Chair as Deputy-Speaker, pursuant to the Standing Order.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE (STAMP DUTIES).

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That, in lieu of the Stamp Duties which would have been payable upon the deeds or assurances which, in case the Bill had not been passed into an Act, would have been required to pass to and vest in the Society certain property, there be charged a Stamp Duty of five pounds, and such duty shall be impressed upon the copy of the intended Act to be delivered to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is "Copy of Act to be registered."—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Resolution to be reported To-morrow.

TRANSIT (IRELAND).

*MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.) said he rose to call attention to the condition of railway and general transit in Ireland and to move, "That, in the opinion of this House, excessive railway rates and defective transit facilities generally constitute a serious bar to the material advancement of Ireland, and should receive immediate attention from the Government with a view to providing a remedy therefor." He did so with the greatest diffidence, and would have much preferred that the duty of so doing had fallen upon one of his colleagues with greater knowledge of this question than he possessed. He trusted that the debate arising out of the Motion would have greater effect on the Government than previous debates had had, although he was bound to confess he was sceptical about it. No one in Ireland, save, perhaps, the directors and managers of the railways, would deny that a change was required. Royal Commission after Royal Commission had inquired into this matter and had reported in favour of a change, but those Reports had been shelved. They were little better off than they were in 1867, when the Devonshire Commission sat, and when Sir Rowland Hill and the right hon. H. W. Monsell reported in favour of the State purchase of Irish railways. The glaring defects of the transit system from which Ireland now suffered were, first of all, high railway rates. They were higher in Ireland than in any other civilised country in the world. The rates for agricultural produce in Ireland were six farthings per ton per mile; in the United States of America and Canada the rates for the same kind of produce were one farthing, whilst the Continental rates were about two farthings per ton per mile. The rates in Ireland were higher than in England and Scotland. The average rate per ton carried by railways in England, Scotland, and Ireland had been calculated, and the calculation showed that in 1880 the rate in Ireland was 21·83 per cent. above the English and 27·13 per cent. above the Scotch rate. In 1890 it was 22·75 per cent. and 29·22 per cent., and in 1900 37·14 per cent. and 33·97 per cent. above the English and Scotch rates. Was it any wonder that Ireland was not prosperous? Not only was her Parliament taken from her by force and fraud, not only had she a bad land system, but she had the worst transit system in the world. It was a wonder Ireland existed at all.

With regard to preferential rates he complained that the rates given by competing lines operated seriously in the matter of business against neighbouring towns not receiving a preference, and that the through rate given to foreigners gave them also a preference over the home producers. There were too many directors and managers on these railways—there was a director to every ten or twenty miles of railway, and the railways were worked in a narrow spirit with the view of squeezing out big dividends for the shareholders. If the rates were reduced 50 per cent., as was recommended by Mr. Childers' draft Report with regard to the Financial Relations, and the lines worked on a better principle, with the view of promoting and encouraging home industries, he did not think any loss would result to the shareholders, but rather the gain to them eventually would be very great indeed, on account of the increased traffic which undoubtedly would follow, but as he recognised that it would be very difficult for private companies to make a move in that direction without assistance from the State, they would have to look for a remedy elsewhere.

Then in comparison with foreign countries there was great delay and carelessness in transit on the Irish railways when carrying goods and live stock. No provision, for instance, was made for feeding and watering stock, no matter how long they might be detained in the wagons. In America each beast was separated and such provision was made. He also complained of unprotected loading banks for cattle. Those were some of the principal defects in the transit system of Ireland, and it would, in his opinion, be mere waste of time to go further into detail. Since he had been in the House he had frequently asked questions dealing with the transit of butter, tea, and eggs, and the high rates for their carriage and delivery, and he did not propose to cover the same ground again. He would just read what Mr. Mulhall had said in his report on Holland, written for Sir Horace Plunkett's Recess Committee—

> "The Dutch farmer can send his butter, eggs, and cheese from Groningen to London at a less cost than a Tipperary farmer can send his to Dublin."

Then staring them in the face they had the fact that the Canadian beef, New Zealand mutton, and American bacon were not only competing with Ireland in the British market, but the home market as well, and he ventured to say that also was due in a large degree to the high rates on Irish railways. Now-a-days they heard a good deal about preferential treatment for the Colonies, but they heard not a word about justice to Ireland in the matter of transit facilities to enable the people to compete with the foreigner. The reason that foreign rates were so low was that the State took an interest in the railways, which were a national asset. The State either owned them or subsidised and controlled them, so that they were worked in the interests of the nation. The real remedy for this state of things was either nationalisation of railways and canals in Ireland by State purchase, or by the establishment of a popularly elected railway committee, responsible to Parliament, with large powers, to regulate traffic and to make companies work as one service. Under the existing circumstances he should not think State purchase advisable, though, with an Irish Parliament in existence, he should strongly support it. He was afraid if there was State purchase the profits made would go, like the financial relations money, into the British Exchequer. He, therefore, set aside State purchase. Then there was the proposal of Mr. Charles Smith, which was that the State should aid the railway companies to lower the rates without interfering with the management of the railways by directors, the theory being that the increase of traffic would eventually counter balance any loss which might arise in other ways. But he wished to state clearly that in any change that might take place at any time they did not want to injure the shareholders in any degree. On the contrary, whenever a change took place the Irish Party would see that their interests were safeguarded.

So far as the canals and navigable rivers of Ireland were concerned, they were, for the most part, a negligible quantity. It was sad to see the splendid rivers in Ireland flowing idly by to the sea which could be made to play a most important part in the industrial life of Ireland. The Irish railways had killed the canal traffic. In the course of the last debate which took place upon this question they heard a great deal about individual enterprise, and motor traffic and State assistance was more than hinted at. In his constituency a motor service was to run, and the first time the car carrying goods ran it broke down, and they had never heard anything more about it. Such a thing was trifling with this great question. What was wanted was some drastic measure of reform. The two sections of the Agricultural and Technical Instruction Act dealing with this question had been practically useless, and he wanted to know what the

Government was going to do. Were they going merely to give a sympathetic answer or were they going to tackle this question. If the Government were not prepared to effect a remedy at once, he urged them to appoint a Viceregal Commission to inquire into the whole question of railway and canal traffic in Ireland, so that there might be some concise information on the matter. He trusted that when the hon. Gentleman replied he would give a plain answer to these questions, as they could no longer be put off with equivocation. He would be glad if the right hon. Gentleman now Chief Secretary rose above Party politics in this matter and inaugurated his Chief Secretaryship with a large scheme of railway reform. If he did, his name would be remembered in Ireland with respect long after he had passed away. This was a great national question, and anything that would reduce the transit rates of the country in conformity with its needs would unquestionably be of great national benefit. It would promote and encourage Irish industries, help to turn the land from grass to tillage, and it would be the means of giving more employment to the people and prevent them from migrating to foreign lands in order to get a living. That would be a great national gain, and with that object in view he begged to move the Resolution standing in his name.

Mr. MOONEY (Dublin County, S.) said that before the adjournment that evening there was one of the largest Houses that had assembled that session, but then they were only discussing a Motion for the extinction of the private Member, and that naturally would be a subject of great interest to all hon. Members of the House. At this sitting they were discussing a Motion calling attention to the condition of the railways and general transit in Ireland, and urging upon the Government the immediate necessity of taking some steps to meet the present condition of affairs. This was a much bigger question than the words of the Motion would lead one to imagine. He might be considered somewhat unorthodox, but in his opinion the mismanagement of the Irish railways was one of the greatest causes of the depopulation of that country, of the decadence of the national industries, and the backward position which Ireland held amongst the nations of the world. The empty state of the House that evening was an indication of the amount of interest which British Members took in the affairs of Ireland. At the present moment there were only six British Members in the House, and amongst them was the hon. Baronet the Member for Peckham. No doubt they would hear more of the hon. Baronet that evening, for he remembered that upon the last occasion when they discussed this question he read to them about six pages from an Australian handbook upon railways, which would have been interesting had it not been for the fact that it had nothing whatever to do with the subject. He did not intend quoting many statistics. His position was that the grievances under which the people of Ireland suffered were notorious. Attention had been directed to this question ever since the year 1837, and it had been constantly brought forward ever since that time. The Irish railways appeared to exist primarily for the benefit of the directors, secondly for the benefit of the shareholders, and the general public did not enter into the scheme at all. The Irish railways were subject absolutely to no competition, and they dictated their terms to the inhabitants, with the result that every industry in Ireland had been strangled. Two years ago a small company was formed to link up two small towns in the North of Ireland, and a most violent opposition was met with from the existing railways. In the course of the hearing of the case, with great difficulty they got the Great Southern and Western Railway Company and the directors of the Great Northern Railway Company to produce a copy of a secret agreement they had entered into delimiting their spheres, and agreeing that they would not allow anybody else to compete with them in their areas, and that if either of them made arrangements with any new railways they would pay damages to the other company. The question of dumping was very prominently before the country at the present time, but what did the House think of an agreement of that character? He did not know whether the hon. Baronet the Member for Peckham was a pure Balfourian or a "whole-hogger."

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): I am a "whole-hogger."

MR. MOONEY said he hoped the hon. Baronet would turn his attention to the wholesale dumping of English produce into Ireland from England. It was cheaper to send goods from the middle of England to the West of Ireland than it was to send them from the West of Ireland to the East of Ireland. There was the case of the Galway distiller who used to buy all his barley in Ireland, but the railway charges were so heavy that he now purchased his barley from this country. They were all aware of the fact that the large breweries in Dublin, instead of sending their goods direct by rail to the North of Ireland, sent them by a circuitous over-sea and land route owing to the extraordinarily prohibitive rates charged by the railway companies. He was afraid that the Government would not move in this matter because it would reflect upon the policy adopted by Dublin Castle. They had had Commission after Commission, deputation after deputation, and debate after debate upon this question, and the only result had been that every promise which had been given to do something to remedy this state of things had been broken, and deputations had always received one stereotyped reply that the time was not yet opportune for making any changes. When they brought up specific complaints they were always referred to the Railway Commissioners, but what did the unfortunate peasant know about that body? What did the Irish peasant know about the Railway Board in England?

They were told that they were going to be given a brand-new Board of Agriculture. A deputation went the other day to see the Vice-President of that body, and he gave them a most sympathetic reply. They were getting accustomed to these sympathetic replies in Ireland. They discovered that the Board of Agriculture had no transit department. They had a highly technical and complicated system, but the transit arrangements were handed over to a branch of the road organisation department. The House would scarcely believe that the man appointed to look after the question of railway rates and charges in Ireland by this body was a veterinary surgeon. He wished to know whether that was a joke or not. Was it the Attorney-General's idea that the question of railway transit in Ireland should be placed in the hands of the Veterinary Department of the Board of Agriculture. The latest Report of this extraordinary body was for the year 1902–3, and the only thing he could find that they had done under the heading of railways was that they had received resolutions from local bodies expressing dissatisfaction with the charges for carriage of their produce, and suggesting that there should be an inquiry into the question of the charges made by the railway companies for conveying Irish and Continental produce to the markets. He found that this Board issued a valuable circular in January, 1903, referring to the use of fertilisers and the question of adulteration. There was a remarkable paragraph dealing with the conveyance of eggs to the market, stating that if they had large eggs they should pack them in a large box, and if they had small eggs they should be packed in a small box. That was about the sum total of the work done by this beautiful Board, which was going to inquire into and smooth over all the difficulties connected with railway transit in Ireland.

The Chief Secretary had written about certain reforms which were to take place in connection with Irish railways upon the Canadian model. When the Attorney-General was questioned upon this point he replied that he had no information upon the subject. If the Chief Secretary thought there was some necessity for making a change, from whom did he get the information? Was it obtained from the Irish Executive, or was it the result of his own inquiries? Somebody must know something about it, and the information at the disposal of the right hon. Gentleman ought to allow him to answer that Question. Were they to believe that because four county councils in Ireland had refused to meet the promoters the whole scheme had been dropped? They wanted to know where the opposition to any scheme which would effectively deal with this question came from. He was inclined to believe that the opposition to any reform in Irish railways came from the same section who drove the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover out of the office of Chief Secretary. A couple of years ago a gentleman connected with the railway interest in Ireland got a baronetcy, but that gentleman was largely responsible for driving out of this House the Vice-President of the Board of Agriculture, Sir Horace Plunkett. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman would accept this Motion or fall back upon the stereotyped reply that the time was not opportune. If it was not opportune now he wondered when it would be. They were told in former years that owing to the riots and agitation in Ireland the Government were unable to consider this question at all, but such an argument could not be advanced now because Ireland was more peaceable at the present moment than she had been for many years. He understood that the Treasury this year was in a most prosperous condition, and he was, under these circumstances, very anxious to hear what the Attorney-General would say in reply to this demand. He begged to second the Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, excessive Railway rates and defective transit facilities generally constitute a serious bar to the material advancement of Ireland, and should receive immediate attention from the Government with a view to providing a remedy therefor."—(*Mr. O'Shaughnessy.*)

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) congratulated the hon. Member for West Limerick on his action in bringing a matter vitally affecting the future prosperity of Ireland before the House. He agreed with almost every word of the Resolution and he would have pleasure in supporting it if it went to a division. But the one thing on which he could not congratulate the hon. Member was the seconder whom he had chosen for it, because he thought that that hon. Gentleman's remarks had introduced into the debate a spirit which was not introduced into it by the mover himself, and would lead to a feeling of controversy which he thought was entirely foreign to the subject.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) thought that the hon. Member for Dublin County South did not refer to Scotchmen at all.

MR. T. L. CORBETT replied that his own constituents were perfectly satisfied with his nationality and his conduct in the House, and he hoped the hon. Member, when he went back to his constituency, would find that those whom he represented were as entirely satisfied with him as he believed his (Mr. Corbett's) constituents were satisfied with his conduct. His object was to try to get away in dealing with a large question affecting Ireland as a whole from a spirit of Party bitterness. It was so often their fate to differ very strongly from Nationalist Members that he for one was only too eager to grasp the opportunity, in which there was all the charm of variety, of agreeing with a Resolution moved from the other side of the House. In this case there ought to be no difference among those who knew the facts of the case. Ireland was essentially a pastoral and agricultural country, and there had lately been great efforts made to improve the technical training of the farmers and to bring science to their aid. Well, that was good, but it did not go far enough. As the hon. Member for West Limerick eloquently pointed out—and he hoped very convincingly pointed out—their produce must not only have a market, but must find means of getting to that market. He wished to say nothing harsh about the management of the railways in Ireland, but he thought those who knew much about the railways of Ireland felt that their rivalries and jealousies were very short-sighted and disastrous in their results. Their charges for freight were simply enormous. He thought their system of collecting produce was most primitive and unbusinesslike. He had always believed that the best piece of work for Ireland would have been that the railways should have been purchased by the State fifty years ago. That would have done more good for Ireland than many of the controversies which had engaged so much of the attention of the people both of

Ireland and of this country during past years. He was not sure that even now it was too late to entertain that idea. He was glad that the hon. Member had also alluded to other means of transit, and he entirely agreed with every word he said about the development of canals. There was also the question which was almost daily opening up in regard to the future possibilities in the use of motor-cars. The scheme of Lord Iveagh had been referred to, and he hoped they would go on with that scheme, which might do much good for Ireland. Failing that, he thought the Government ought to take it up. He hoped the motor-car system would be taken up by others or by the State and fully developed. He thanked the hon. Member for bringing a matter of such great importance before the House. He regretted that the new Chief Secretary was not present, for he felt sure that if he only took this question up with earnestness and energy he would do much to solve the question and help on the future destinies of Ireland.

Mr. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.) thought that this was one of the most important questions that could come before their attention. Quick and cheap transit must certainly be necessary for the development of the resources of a country, and without it a country could not become prosperous or rich. He knew Ireland when there were no railways at all there. At that time the country was ramified with macadamised roads, and the only cost in connection with them was for their making and keeping in order. There were no syndicate profits. They were delighted then at the news that there were to be railways in Ireland, and they read the news with as much wonderment as when now-a-days they heard that in Mid.-Atlantic the passengers were able to have newspapers giving all the news of the two hemispheres. Those railways were built, but they found that they had a seamy side. They were owned by syndicates and shareholders; they ran through the richest and most populous parts of the country and left the parts perhaps most requiring facilities without any means of transit whatever. He represented a constituency which had no railways at all. There were two or three termini on the borders of the county, but no railways ran through it, and they might travel eighteen miles one way and twenty miles the other and wonder whether there was no Government to think of the well-being of the country. There was no hope if they started creameries or industries in that county, for they could not get to the market with their produce. If railway directors were asked to extend their railways through the county they simply declared that it would not pay to do so. The remedy for this condition of things was nationalisation of the railways. The German system was very different. In 1879 Prince Bismarck commenced to reform the system that existed in that country in the interests of the people, and by adopting State ownership he increased the industrial wealth to an enormous extent, adding to the mileage, increasing the traffic, and reducing freight charges, besides earning some £11,000,000 which went in relief of taxation. Under this new system the freights were uniform, and were as well known to the people as postal charges for letters in this country. It contributed to the well-being and vitality of the German nation. The railways in that country were worked for the benefit of the people, and not, as in this country, built on commercial principles and run for the benefit of the shareholders. Bacon said 300 years ago that "Fertile soil, busy workshops, and easy conveyance for men and commodities from one place to another were necessities for a land wishing to prosper," and that was true today. It was a question that touched the heart of a nation. They ought to devote more time to building up their country and attending to its material wants. Then they would succeed better than by spending money on matters which, in comparison, were light as air.

Sir CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said he had failed to hear any suggestions of a practical character put forward by the supporters of this Motion. He had had from time to time to look into the statistics of railways in all parts of the country, and he found there was no point of the United Kingdom where the difficulties of railway administration were so acute as in Ireland. The Irish railways paid the lowest dividends of any railways in the United Kingdom, a circumstance which he attributed very largely to the fact that they carried a small quantity of goods and earned very little from the travelling public. He thought that if hon. Members opposite had been versed in the practical working of railways they would not have indulged in such sweeping condemnation of the Irish railways. With a population of less than 5,000,000, the amount earned was under £4,000,000 a year, while in Scotland, with a somewhat similar population, the total earned was £12,000,000. To secure greater economy in railway administration and to lower the rates it was necessary to increase the traffic.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.) asked whether there were any baronial guarantees in Scotland.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW said he did not see the relevancy of the interruption. His point was that to secure better results there must be more traffic on the railways. The difficulty under which Irish railways worked was that while they brought produce to the coast for shipment to England they were able to secure very little return traffic, and that added very considerably to the cost of administration. He hoped hon. Members opposite would bring more clearly before the House the practical grievances of which they complained and the remedies they proposed. The Resolution did not suggest the State purchase of railways; it called for a remedy, but it did not state what that remedy should be.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) said that if he thought the House of Commons as a body was like the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken he would not trouble to bring any matter before it. If the hon. Member had listened to the speech of the mover of the Motion and yet declared that no practical suggestions had been made, he must be singularly incapable of taking in a plain statement as to matters of fact—a quality not wanting in Scotchmen generally. But perhaps the excuse was that he happened to be a railway director. It was not the business of Nationalist Members to make practical suggestions. If they were in power and able to redress grievances it would be their duty to bring forward remedies, but, inasmuch as this Parliament insisted on governing Ireland against the people's will, all their representatives had to do was to state their grievances and leave it to the Government to devise the remedies. Where the power was, there also was the responsibility. If Irishmen were given the power they would not hesitate to accept the responsibility. But it was not true to say that no practical suggestions had been made. More eminent men than his hon. friend had suggested that the Irish railways should be managed by the State. In the draft Report of the Financial Relations Commission the late Mr. Childers suggested that an annual grant should be given to enable Irish railways to reduce their charges. His hon. friends had been taunted with want of knowledge on this subject. But it was not necessary to be a railway director to know something about railways. One could acquire by reading some knowledge about good and bad management of railways, bogus companies, and inflated dividends. He agreed with the hon. Member opposite that what was wanted was a greater production, but before they could secure that it was necessary to remove those causes by which production was hampered and almost extinguished. An interesting lesson in this matter might be drawn from Belguim which, until its independence, was full of discontent, with bad means of transit, and almost all the evils with which Ireland was now afflicted. But since it had enjoyed the inestimable blessing of governing itself it had got rid of all those evils, and had become a formidable competitor with England herself in many directions. It was true that that improvement was not brought about solely by railway reform; it was largely due to another reform to which the hon. Gentlemen opposite would doubtless not consent in the case of Ireland.

The Attorney-General was able to assert many things, but he could not deny that, in the words of the Resolution, railway rates in Ireland were excessive and transit facilities defective; and he did not think he would deny that those facts constituted a serious bar to the material advancement of Ireland. If those points were admitted, was it not the duty of the Government to give the matter the immediate attention for which the Resolution asked with a view to providing a remedy? If the existence of grievances was admitted, what else was a Government for but to provide remedies? In conclusion, he desired to ask what had become of the Iveagh-Pirrie scheme. The announcement of that scheme had been made, and had aroused great expectations throughout the country. He ventured to say that there was not a better field in the whole of Ireland than North Dublin for such an experiment as this scheme of Lord Iveagh and Mr. Pirrie. The Government had been asked when anything was going to be done to realise the hopes and expectations held out by the Chief Secretary in the speech to which he had referred, but nothing at all had been done in connection with the Iveagh-Pirrie scheme. He wished to know what had become of that scheme? Were they going to hear anything more of it? If it was going to be dropped, what other programme was going to take its place? He did not know whether the Attorney-General would be able to answer those Questions, but he hoped he would be able to say something on that subject, even in the absence of the Chief Secretary. The Attorney-General was able to say a good deal about Sir Antony MacDonnell in the speeches he delivered in the North of Ireland, in which he asked who was at the bottom of the devolution scheme, who baptised it, and who drafted it? If he knew so much about that subject independently of the Chief Secretary why could he not reply upon this?

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I beg the hon. Gentleman's pardon. I knew no more than he did about the devolution scheme; but I made certain surmises, which seem to have been very accurate. [Ironical NATIONALIST cheers.]

MR. CLANCY said the Attorney-General had quite confirmed what he had stated. Why could he not tell them something about the Iveagh-Pirrie scheme? Why could he not give them some information upon this point when he was able to surmise all about the MacDonnell incident? Surely Lord Iveagh had visited Dublin Castle in connection with the Sir Antony MacDonnell incident, and they ought to have some definite information as to whether this scheme was all humbug or not. He was inclined to think that it was more humbug than anything else.

Why had the Agricultural Department not done something in this matter? That body was established for the ostensible purpose of benefiting the agricultural industry in Ireland. As far as he could see the only thing it had done up to the present was to provide £90,000 in salaries for certain persons, amongst whom was the son of an Earl who was content with a salary of about £200 a year. He presumed that this official rendered proportionate service. Why was this Department endowed with £250,000 a year? Surely it was intended that that sum should be devoted to the promotion of agriculture, and he should have thought that one of the objects to which that money would have been devoted would have been to find out better means of transit for agricultural produce to the market. What had been done by the Agricultural Department to achieve this object? As far as he could gather, nothing whatever had been done. He was aware that a very considerable amount had been added to local taxation, but nothing in the nature of a scheme for improving transit facilities had yet been heard of. He would like the Attorney-General to state what the Agricultural Department had done; whether it had done anything, and if it had not done anything what was the reason for it?

He thought English Members were pursuing a very shortsighted policy by being absent upon occasions like this. They had been taunted from time to time with being impractical and sentimental, but these charges were generally made by men who were drawing very considerable salaries from the public purse. This Motion dealt with a question which was intimately and closely connected with the welfare of Ireland and nothing else, and nobody could contend that any political object could be gained by bringing forward this subject. If anything, the remedies they were proposing would not benefit Nationalist supporters but Unionist shareholders. English Members on both sides of the House had carefully abstained from attending the debate upon this question, but speaking from his own Party point of view this was all the better for the Nationalist movement, and he did not expect anything else from English Members. He confessed that if the English benches were filled, as far as Ireland was concerned the effective power would be about the same. English Members either would not understand or were incapable of understanding Irish questions, and they had the curious idea that their duty was to ridicule Irish Members and their opinions and make out that Ireland had no grievances. That was a very discouraging state of affairs, but it was instructive to Ireland. It taught Irishmen to trust to themselves alone and place no faith in the good sense or the fairness of English Members. It was only the fear of the inconvenience that Irish Members could put them to that made them realise the necessity of doing something for Ireland.

*Mr. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said he could not congratulate the hon. Member who had just sat down upon the tone of his speech.

*Mr. CLANCY: I should be very sorry if you could.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG said the speech of his hon. friend the Member for Renfrewshire was a most temperate and excellent contribution to the debate. [An Hon. Member: He fulfilled the arrangement and then left the House.] The manner in which the hon. Member opposite had treated this question was entirely wanting in taste. He wished to congratulate the hon. Member who moved the Motion upon the temperate way in which he brought the matter before the House, for there was very little in his speech to which any hon. Member could take exception. He had hoped that the debate would have been carried on in the same manner. So far as he was concerned he agreed very largely with the terms of the Resolution before the House. No doubt transit facilities in Ireland were defective, but the blame for this should not be laid entirely upon the railway companies. Most of the speeches had been directed against the railway companies, but it was only fair to give to those companies the credit which they deserved. The question before the House that night was whether they were of opinion that the whole system of transit in Ireland should be taken over by the Government, by acquiring the absolute ownership of railways and canals, or whether they should by means of subsidies help the various railway companies to earn what hon. Members opposite agreed they deserved—a fair return for their money, and, at the same time, to enable farmers and traders to send their goods from the place where they were produced to the markets in England at a more reasonable figure than they could do at present. When they came to compare the rates which producers and farmers in Ireland had to pay in sending their goods to English markets with those which were paid by traders in other countries, the comparison, he took leave to say, was fallacious. It was quite clear that where railways were owned by the State, and where the taxpayer paid the freight instead of the producer, the producer would not have so much to pay. Whether the Government of Great Britain was prepared to seriously consider the question of either subsidising Irish railways or buying them up altogether he did not know, but he imagined the question was a much larger one than hon. Members opposite seemed to think. It seemed to him that if Irish railways were to be nationalised a demand would be forthwith made for the nationalisation of the English railways, and that hon. Members would admit was a bigger undertaking than the present Government would undertake.

He had found that the comparisons put forward between Irish railways and other railways were misleading, inasmuch as in many cases the sea carriage was included in the through rate. When they introduced the sea carriage they upset the whole of their calculations. There was no possibility of comparing railways in America with those in Ireland, because in America 90 per cent. of the traffic was "car load" traffic or commodities of, say, twenty tons and upwards. In Ireland only about 5 per cent. of the whole traffic came under this class, the remainder of the traffic being in small parcels. Where a railway was subsidised by the State it was quite clear they could not compare its freights with those of the Great Northern or Great Southern in Ireland. He had been moved to speak because he thought it proper that at least one Irish Member of the House should make it clear that he did not share some of the views entertained by hon. Gentlemen opposite regarding Irish railways. He admitted that the facilities were perhaps not as they should be, and he was almost inclined to agree that the railways should be made the property of the State. Certainly he went so far as to say that everything that could be done to subsidise railway companies so as to make it possible for them to give cheaper freights than they did at present would have his support.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.) said that some two years ago a pamphlet was issued by the Foreign Office upon the best means of transit in Continental countries, showing how the canals were managed, and what effect they had upon the railway system and the seaport towns. If instead of lecturing them the hon Member for South Antrim had read that pamphlet he would have derived far more information from it than the knowledge which he had presumed to give to the House as his own experience of railways. There were in France 10,000,000 miles of canals, and the cost had been borne by the State. During Grattan's Parliament Ireland supplied at least £1,300,000 for the making of canals, with the result that no country on the face of the globe made such rapid strides in commerce, arts, and literature as Ireland did during that period. Grattan's Parliament devoted its energies to the development of the resources of Ireland, but the English Parliament had never devoted one penny to the development of the canal system. In the seven years following the Franco-Prussian War France spent £9,640,000 on improvements connected with waterways, harbours, and maritime ports, but what had England spent upon Irish canals and ports? There was a great flutter a few years ago about the expenditure of £100,000 all over Ireland, and £70,000 of that sum was to be devoted to Westport. It was a fact that not a single sod had been turned there yet to develop a harbour, which the late Chief Secretary, who had been sacrificed upon the altar of bigotry, said would transform the province of Connaught from a congested district into a paradise. Not a penny of that sum had been spent up to the present. Recognising that one of the chief causes of prosperity in a country was the facility with which produce could be brought to market, the French Government had in recent years expended £27,000,000 upon canals and waterways, and had made provision for a further expenditure of £21,000,000 within the next sixteen years. In Ireland there had been a grant of £100,000, and even this had not been expended. He only wished he could get a sum of £1,000 or £2,000 voted for a harbour in Clare Island, but the excuse given for not granting this request was that there were only some 500 people there. He wished to know if those people were to be permanently locked up there without any proper transit facilities simply because they happened to be six miles from the mainland. On the French canals there were no tolls, and they were all free. That was one of the greatest incentives to the French peasant to develop his farm and the resources of his country. He could give similar instances in Germany, Holland, and Belgium, showing how the provision of proper transit facilities had enabled those countries to make rapid strides in the path of progress. If Ireland only got the management of its own affairs they would cease coming to the British Parliament imploring English Members who knew nothing whatsoever about Ireland to give them proper facilities for transit.

Mr. ATKINSON said he wished to join in the congratulations to the hon. Member for Limerick for the ability with which he had introduced this subject. The question raised by the Motion was undoubtedly most important. No one could deny that it was a great disadvantage to a country to have an inadequate transit system, or that, if the railway rates were excessive to the extent of being injurious, they should be reduced. But he could not enter upon a discussion of that aspect of the question at all. At the same time it was right to say that it was most fallacious to compare the railway and canal rates of Ireland with the railway and canal rates of Continental countries, when the conditions were so different. It was desirable, no doubt, that there should be cheap and easy transit, but gentlemen who propounded schemes of reform too often forgot that there was no country which required more the investment of capital than Ireland, and that there was no more dangerous operation than to rob capital of its fruits. If they wanted to do anything by private enterprise they must depend, not upon Irish capital, but upon English capital, and he knew that in almost every instance of the guaranteed lines which were made in Ireland the capital had to be placed in this country. Take the case of the Armagh Railway which had been referred to. The Bill for that railway was supported by a petition, in which it was said that it was desirable to have lower rates of carriage, and that the railway would be a vast advantage to the district. The Bill was carried, and the capital of the company was £110,000, but out of the whole of that amount £110 was all that was subscribed in Ireland.

An attack had been made on the Agricultural Department, and it had been alleged that it had left undone the things it ought to have done, and had done the things it ought not to have done, and that there was no health in it. The Agricultural Department, he would remind hon. Gentlemen opposite, had no right to intervene simply on the ground that rates were excessive. What they had a right to do, and what they had done successfully, was to intervene and appeal to the Commissioners if a railway company was giving a preference or any unfair advantage to any class or district. The Department had bestowed much attention on a most important task, that of obtaining and diffusing knowledge on a number of important matters. One of these was the way in which produce should be forwarded. Denmark had made enormous strides in the English market by reason of the attractive form in which it made up butter for sale. The Reports for last year, however, showed a decline in the number of parcels of Irish goods which had been rejected, and in the complaints made by merchants in England. The Department had also taken up complaints made by persons whose goods were delayed in transit. They were, in addition, endeavouring to impress upon producers in Ireland the great folly of not sending forward their goods in large bulk. Communications had also been made to railway companies regarding the loading and unloading of cattle, and arrangements intended to meet the requirements of the case had been adopted at a number of places on different railways. The Department had a large number of inspectors whose business it was to see to the loading of cattle, and they endeavoured to secure that the animals should be properly treated. They had devoted time, attention, and expense to all the subjects that had been raised, but with regard to rates they had no coercive powers whatever, though they could make suggestions as to the making of better arrangements, the carrying of traffic in larger bulk, and its better distribution. The Department had put in force all the powers it possessed, and had thereby, he contended, conferred great benefit on the country.

With regard to the proposed motor scheme in districts through which no railways ran, it was obvious that only a large and general scheme could be undertaken. It was considered that any such scheme would be inoperative unless heavy wagons were used, and the roads and bridges would have to be made fit to carry such traffic. Four county councils had refused to go to the necessary expense, and others did not show any disposition to do so. The result was that up to the present no further advance had been made in putting the scheme in actual operation, but it had by no means been abandoned. He hoped that the county councils would try to make arrangements to put the roads into a proper condition to carry motor-car traffic.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) asked if the scheme was not to be put into operation unless all the county councils were agreed?

MR. ATKINSON said it was the decision of the Department that a general scheme should be adopted.

With reference to the other portion of the Motion of the hon. Gentleman, he did not understand him to say that there should be a State purchase of Irish railways. There were conflicting opinions as to whether the railway rates in Ireland were excessive. Some people declared that having regard to the position of the country they were not. He had never applied his mind to this most important question—[AN HON. MEMBER on the Irish benches: Nor to any other Irish question.]—and it deserved the attention of the Government. He could not pledge the new Chief Secretary to any particular course of action, nor give a pledge that night which would bind the Government in regard to this matter, but he would promise on their behalf that the whole subject would receive the most earnest and anxious attention.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) said he had given great consideration to this important question. Unfortunately he had not been able to hear the early part of the discussion, but he thought that the water transit both of England and Ireland had not been developed.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, and agreed to.

Mr. Atkinson.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, excessive Railway rates and defective transit facilities generally constitute a serious bar to the material advancement of Ireland, and should receive immediate attention from the Government with a view to providing a remedy therefor.

SOUTH AFRICA (AUTHORITY OF HIGH COMMISSIONER).

Address for "Return of all instruments showing the nature and extent of the authority for various purposes of the High Commissioner for South Africa over and in respect of the several Colonies, Possessions, and Protectorates included in British South Africa."—(*Mr. Bryce.*)

RAILWAY DIRECTORS AND PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington): I beg to move that the House do now adjourn.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said he was sorry to have to trouble the House on a matter which he had already raised at Question time. He had then not received a satisfactory Answer to the Question which he had put to the hon. Baronet the Member for Wandsworth. In anything he had to say he had no intention of making a personal attack upon the hon. Member for Wandsworth, and he did not wish to make any insinuation against him. On public grounds, however, he objected to the hon. Gentleman acting as Chairman of a Committee appointed to consider a group of Railway Bills, the hon. Baronet being a director of two railway companies and the London agent for a third. He remembered three or four years ago he happened to be on a Committee which considered a Great Southern and Western Railway Bill. On that occasion the hon. Baronet came to the Committee to preside over it; but objection was taken to him as Chairman because he was chairman of several railway companies and the hon. Member for Camberwell, was appointed Chairman of the Committee in his place. When he read in the Order Paper on Friday last that the hon. Baronet had been selected to preside over a Committee to consider a group of Railway Bills he communicated with the Chairman of the Committee of Selection, but was informed that the hon. Baronet was determined to stick to the position to which he had been appointed by the Committee of Selection. He did not consider that the Committee of Selection had displayed care in their selection of a Chairman of the Committee which was to consider this important group of Bills; and he questioned whether any other hon. Member would have had the bad taste to persist in taking the Chair after the manifestations of opinion which had been made against that course being taken. Two Members chosen to sit on that Committee had resigned, and one of these hon. Members told him that, taking all the circumstances into account, he did not think the hon. Baronet was a proper person to preside over the Committee. The hon. Baronet was a director of two railway companies, and the agent in London of a third; and if he was an archangel he could not, under these circumstances, be absolutely disinterested. There were seventy-two railway directors in the House, and, in his opinion, the House was becoming railway ridden. He complained that the Committee of Selection were not more particular in selecting the Chairman of these Committees. He did not say that the hon. Baronet had any personal interest to serve, but, as a railway director, he would be animated by a spirit of trade unionism. He held that in all the circumstances the hon. Baronet should retire from the position, and he hoped that the Committee of Selection would not allow the chairman of a railway company to take that position again.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton) said that as the Chairman of the Committee of Selection was unable to be present in his place that night, he had asked him to explain the practice which had generally been followed in these matters by the Committee of Selection. It was very often very difficult to get an hon. Member to undertake the very arduous and responsible duties involved in presiding over Railway Committees. When the hon. Baronet the Member for Wandsworth was asked to take this post, it was his duty to see that the hon. Member had no personal interest in the Bills to be considered. It had always been thought that it was quite within the power of a railway director, or railway shareholder, to preside over a Committee to consider a railway in another part of the country from that with which he was connected. He knew that the hon. Member was interested in a railway in India, but it never occurred to him, or any other member of the Committee of Selection, that that was a disqualification to the hon. Baronet acting on this particular Committee. The Committee of Selection did not consider that the business connection of the hon. Baronet with railways in so distant a place as India was any disqualification for his acting on a Committee on a railway in which he had no interest. The position of the hon. Baronet had never been challenged before.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Yes, my hon. friend says it was challenged.

*SIR HENRY KIMBER (Wandsworth): I deny it.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN said that he was a member of a Railway Committee of which the hon. Baronet was nominated Chairman; but the Committee elected another member Chairman—he thought it was the hon. Member for Cambridge—and the hon. Baronet retired from the Committee and would not serve at all.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): He was redistributed.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY said that he had no knowledge of that to which the hon. Member referred. All he could say was that the appointment of the hon. Baronet by the Committee of Selection was made in the ordinary way, and he had been very much surprised when he heard that the appointment was objected to.

MR. SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.) said he wished to say that on account of the hon. Baronet's connection with various railway companies he could not sit on the same Committee with him. In his opinion the hon. Gentleman would be acting more in harmony with the traditions of the House if he refrained from acting as Chairman, or even sitting as a member of the Committee to consider Group 1 of Railway Bills. He most respectfully declined to sit on a Committee under the Chairmanship of the hon. Member for Wandsworth. With any other Chairman he would be pleased to act.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said it was sometimes very difficult to say where private interest ceased and public interest began. As a matter of principle, he thought that Gentlemen who where connected with railway interests, especially if they were chairmen of railway companies, should not be Chairmen of Railway Committees. The hon. Baronet the Member for Wandsworth was a director of no fewer than three railway companies, and everybody knew that railway directors had facilities for travel given them over other lines than their own. The railway interest was a very powerful and dangerous one in that House. They could not expect that the system would be altered under the present Government, because there were twelve railway directors in the Ministry, and two of them Whips of the Tory Party. No hon. Member should sit on a Committee of whom the slightest suspicion could be felt that he was giving his votes as a guinea-pig. The hon. Gentleman should, in his own interest and in the interest of decency and good taste, retire from the position to which he had been appointed.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said it had been ruled by former Speakers that no discussion could take place of the personal character now indulged in by the hon. Gentleman.

*MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said that that did not prevent him pointing out that the hon. Baronet the Member for Wandsworth held several directorships; and the whole thing reeked of corruption.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Gentleman is not in order in using such language.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: said he did not wish to cast any personal imputation; but he thought it was extremely objectionable having Gentlemen connected with railways on such Committees.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said that he understood that this Railway Committee was to meet to-morrow, and he desired to ask the hon. Baronet what was to be done. One member of the Committee had actually resigned; another had declined to serve; so that to-morrow the Chairman would be alone, and he could not make a Committee of himself. If the hon. Baronet persisted against the opinions of his colleagues and the House, what would happen? He would have to appear in the House and report the Member for South Westmeath. Had not the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury sufficient trouble on his hands without raising a debate on a question of this kind? There could be no previous Question moved there. It would lead to a debate, and to the suspension of the Irish Member if he refused to act on the Committee. He wanted to know when that debate was likely to end. He thought the Committee of Selection should look into this question, and that the Chairman of that Committee should have been present, or somebody properly qualified to represent him. He must say that the House was getting into a very serious position. The hon. Baronet admited that he was a railway director of two companies and the agent in London of another. Railway directors ought not to preside over Committees on railways, the members of which should be above suspicion.

CAPTAIN ELLICE (St. Andrews Burghs) said that as a member of the Committee he was ready to serve under any Chairman appointed by the Committee of Selection. Until recently he himself had been a railway director; but when he was appointed a member of the Committee he at once sent in his resignation to the chairman of his company. He did not take that course entirely because of his appointment to the Committee, for he had been previously in communication with his chairman on the subject, but the fact that he was appointed to the Committee hastened his resignation. He had no feeling in the matter, and was perfectly ready to serve under any Chairman.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said there seemed to be no doubt that a previous Committee declined to serve under the hon. Member for Wandsworth, and he could not help thinking that if any other Member had been appointed in the same way by the Committee of Selection to the Chairmanship of this Committee he would have mentioned that fact to the Committee of Selection.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket) confessed that, in his opinion, the work done by the Committee of Selection was perhaps the most important done by any other Committee of the House. It was carried on with the unanimous confidence of the House of Commons, and if that confidence was at all shaken the work done by that Committee would be tremendously impaired. He asked his hon. friend the Member for Wandsworth to reconsider his decision to preside over this Railway Committee. He did not think the Committee would lose, or that the hon. Baronet would lose by so doing. No one would object to his being Chairman of an equally important Committee. If the hon. Baronet declined to reconsider his decision, he must say that if a question of privilege arose to-morrow afternoon out of the matter he would be obliged to throw in his lot with hon. Gentlemen opposite. He hoped that his hon. friend would think it compatible with his dignity to reconsider his position and allow his valuable services to be transferred to another Committee.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he was sorry that the Chairman of the Selection Committee was too unwell to be present, and he felt a little difficulty in saying a few words on this question. As a member of the Selection Committee he would explain to the House what the position was in making appointments to Chairmanships of Committees. That was a very onerous task put upon their shoulders. He could assure the House, and he was certain that the House would accept what he said, that their one object was to put on these Committees, Members who, as far as they could judge, would be absolutely impartial. The Selection Committee did not of themselves appoint the Chairman of Committees on railway groups. They appointed a Chairman's Panel which reported to the Selection Committee that so and so had been appointed Chairman of the Committee on such and such railway group. In selecting the Chairman's Panel only men of experience and likely to be acceptable as Chairmen were appointed. He understood that no Member of the House made any reflection on the Chairman's Panel. He believed that the hon. Member for Wandsworth had been on the Panel for two or three years, but since then some things had happened. In the first place, on a previous occasion when he had been made Chairman of the railway group he was objected to for various reasons and another Chairman elected, whereupon the hon. Member withdrew.

*Mr. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said that he had been a member of the Committee referred to by the hon. Member for Kilkenny and the hon. Member for Poplar; but so far as he could recall there was no discussion on the question of the appointment of his hon. friend as a member of that Committee; and he was appointed to the Committee on the understanding that he was to be Chairman. The hon. Baronet was not, however, appointed Chairman, but he could not charge his memory to say that he was objected to because he was Chairman of a railway company. Indeed, he thought that was not mentioned, and that it had nothing to do with his not being appointed to the Chairmanship. It was because it was felt by the Committee that, as Irish Bills were concerned, an Irishman should be appointed to the position.

Mr. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Can the hon. Gentleman say why the hon. Member for Wandsworth retired from the Committee?

*Mr. BOND said he did not know.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said that, so far as the Committee of Selection was concerned, this matter had not been brought to their notice. The fact that the hon. Baronet had been refused as Chairman of a previous Committee did not come before the Committee of Selection, and therefore in putting the hon. Baronet on the Chairman's Panel that was not in their minds. He did not remember the actual circumstances in which the hon. Baronet had been put on the Chairman's Panel. What was done in ordinary circumstances was to consider whether an hon. Member or his constituents had personal interests, in any of the Bills in the railway group. They considered the knowledge of affairs possessed by hon. Members, and the fact that the hon. Baronet was a director of an Indian railway would not, in itself, in the opinion of the Selection Committee, have made it impossible or disadvantageous for the hon. Baronet to be put on the Panel. His hon. friend said that as the hon. Member for Wandsworth was a director of two or three railway companies and the agent of another, that marked a difference in regard to his qualifications as Chairman of this particular Committee. In all these very delicate matters of Private Bill procedure they desired that no human being should allege that there was the slightest shred of suspicion in regard to any member of a Committee, and especially in regard to the Chairman. This was a very painful subject, and he would really like his hon. friend, against whom, of course, no personal accusation was made, to withdraw from this particular position to take another.

*SIR HENRY KIMBER said it was due to the House that he should make a statement, although he was at a loss to know what was the particular matter that he had to answer. He was objected to as Chairman of a Railway Committee, on the ground, as he understood, of his being, and having been for many years, to the knowledge of the House, of the public at large, and especially of the commercial community, the chairman of an Indian railway company which had been a great success and paid large profits to the benefit of the Indian exchequer and taxpayer. That was the objection. The hon. Member for Poplar had pointed out that there might be a difference. That hon. Member admitted that the fact that he was chairman of that Indian railway company was in the knowledge of the Committee of Selection when he was appointed to the Chairman's Panel; but the hon. Member thought it made a difference when he heard from the benches opposite that he was a director in two or three other railway companies. What were the facts? He was not the chairman of any railway company in England, and never had been; and only of one in India, for the second one mentioned, the Pondichery, was only a small branch of the South Indian and in French territory, and therefore nominally a separate company; nor was he a shareholder in any English railway company. He, it was true, held a power of attorney from the board of a New Zealand railway company, and he believed that people who held that position were called agents, but it was merely a ministerial office. How, by any possibility, his position as chairman of a great Indian railway company could subject him righteously to what on the Irish benches they had called an imputation, and what even the Member for Poplar called a suspicion, he was at a loss to conceive: and he was not disposed to give way to it. The hon. Member for Donegal had indulged in very high invectives on suspicious cases; but at the same time the hon. Member said there was no reflection on his honour. If there was not the slightest connection between an Indian railway company, 10,000 mlies away, and one of the great railway companies in England, it seemed to him there was no case for him to answer. The House might have noticed that the true secret of this personal attack—for it was a personal attack—was to be found, not in his connection with an Indian railway company or with an English railway company, but in an incident which took place last year, and which was indicated by the ejaculation from the Irish Benches just now of the word "Redistribution." It was not a question of order, but a question of personal prejudice.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said he would remind the hon. Baronet that this was not a question of privilege, and he did not think the hon. Baronet was entitled to go into any question other than that he was a director of a railway company.

*SIR HENRY KIMBER said he ventured to submit whether he was not entitled to show that there was no basis for this personal attack and to show what the real facts were.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER said he had already ruled that the hon. Baronet was not entitled to go into these other questions.

*SIR HENRY KIMBER said he had shown what was the real basis of this personal attack. He held that there was no reflection on his honour. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had not attempted to prove that there was anything that could affect his personal interest or judgment in any matter which would come before the Committee. He could conscientiously comply with the only rule of the House which regulated the propriety or right of any Member to sit on a Committee. That was a declaration required from every Member of such Committees that neither he, nor his constituents, had any interest in the Bills that would come before the Committee of which he had been appointed chairman. That being so, he declined very respectfully to bow to the criterion which came from the Irish Benches, and from some English Benches, as to what was good or bad taste; and he refused to bow to the demand of the Nationalist Members that he should retire from the position of Chairman of this Committee.

*SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD said he wanted to explain what was the view of the Government in this matter. The Government had never interfered with the Committee of Selection. That Committee was chosen from among the very best and most respected Members of the House; it was not moved for by him, and it was an independent Committee. He therefore did not think the Government could be charged with interfering with it in any way. It would be a great mistake if the Government of the day did interfere with it.

*SIR HENRY KIMBER said in regard to what took place on the Irish Bill, that Bill was referred to a Select Committee, and he was nominated to that Committee by the Committee of Selection. It was a Hybrid Committee, the Chairman of which was always elected by the Committee itself at its first meeting, he was not even proposed, and therefore could not have been and was not objected to on any ground as Chairman, and the hon. Member for Cambridge was selected, in which he himself concurred.

MR. FLAVIN asked why the hon. Baronet retired from the Committee.

*SIR HENRY KIMBER said he surely had a right to retire from any Committee he chose. He considered that the hon. Member for Cambridge as an Irish gentleman better qualified to act as Chairman than himself.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Waldon) said that nobody accused the hon. Baronet of contemplating to influence anyone in regard to this particular group of Railway Bills.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) said hon. Members opposite were seeking to set up an entirely new rule for the selection of members of Committees.

And, it being One of the clock, Mr. Deputy-Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 16*th March*, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—Great Central Railway [H.L.]—(Petition for additional Provision). The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

LEVEN'S PATENT.

Petition of Andrew Mount Haes, praying for leave to introduce a Bill "For rendering valid certain Letters Patent granted to Adolph Leven in respect of an invention for improvements in appliances for protection against projectiles"; together with a copy of the proposed Bill annexed thereto; read, and referred to the Examiners.

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.]. A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.]—(Petition for additional Provision). Examiners' Certificate of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

Formby Township Bill [H.L.] Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [H.L.]; Dearne Valley Railway Bill [H.L.]; Truro Water Bill [H.L.]; Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Stanmore be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl of Lauderdale, and that the Lord Stanmore be Chairman of the said Committee. Read, and agreed to.

PRIVATE AND PROVISIONAL ORDER CONFIRMATION BILLS.

Ordered.

That no Private Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill originating in this House shall be read a first time after Thursday the 11th day of May next.

That no Provisional Order Confirmation Bill brought from the House of Commons shall be read a second time after Tuesday the 27th day of June next.

That when a Bill shall have passed this House with Amendments these orders shall not apply to any new Bill sent up from the House of Commons which the Chairman of Committees shall report to the House as substantially the same as the Bill so amended.

That this House will not receive any petition for a Private Bill later than Thursday the 11th day of May next, unless such Private Bill shall have been approved by the High Court of Justice; nor any petition for a Private Bill approved by the High Court of Justice after Tuesday the 16th day of May next.

That this House will not receive any report from the Judges upon petitions presented to this House for Private Bills after Tuesday the 16th day of May next.

Ordered, That the said orders be printed and published, and affixed on the doors of this House and Westminster Hall. [No. 29.]

RETURNS REPORTS, ETC.

ARMY (IMPERIAL YEOMANRY).

Training Return of Imperial Yeomanry, for 1904. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PUBLIC RECORDS (INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT) (ESTATE DUTY OFFICE).

Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents in the Department of the Inland Revenu

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

(Estate Duty Office), which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury Minute, dated 13th March, 1905, granting a retired allowance to Walter James Cox, sorting clerk and telegraphist, Coventry.

NATIONAL DEBT (SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES).

Account of the gross amount of all sums received and paid by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of banks for savings and friendly societies in Great Britain and Ireland, from their commencement at 6th August, 1817, to 20th November, 1904, inclusive.

Account of the several transactions which have taken place, during the year ended 20th November, 1904, in the investment of all moneys which came into the hands of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt for savings banks and friendly societies.

Account showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to the trustees of savings banks and friendly societies respectively on 20th November, 1904, etc.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

STREET BETTING BILL [H.L.].

Amendment reported (according to order).

Lord DAVEY moved an Amendment in Clause 1, including the sea-beach among the public places in which betting was to be an offence. He said he had received representations from authorities at sea-side places stating that the sea-beach was in many places the recreation ground of the town, and a place to which inhabitants and visitors resorted for their recreation and enjoyment. The sea-beach at places like Bournemouth stood exactly in the same category as a public park or garden. What Hyde Park was to the Londoner the sea-beach was to the inhabitant and visitor at a seaside town. He was told that at present when a street bookmaker was convicted of carrying on his business in the streets of a seaside town he resorted to the sea-beach, and that the police had no power to deal with him there. As the Bill stood, without his Amendment, the same thing would happen, and the bookmaker would only have to leave the streets and resort to the beach.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 6, after the word 'garden' to insert the words 'or the sea-beach.'"—(*Lord Davey.*)

The LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY) said he was very sorry his noble and learned friend had thought it right to alter the very useful Bill as it was introduced. On a previous occasion, when it contained other clauses which he did not think desirable, he opposed the Bill, and it was thrown out. The Bill, as brought in this session, was a useful one. Betting in public streets was a nuisance, and one it was desirable should be abated, but by this Amendment the character of the Bill was changed. Instead of putting an end to street betting, it was aiming at putting an end to betting altogether. He would not argue whether betting was or was not an improper thing, but if it was considered improper it would be more reasonable to prohibit it altogether instead of these injurious distinctions being made in the regulation of the amusements of the poor and the rich. There was an Amendment down in the name of Lord James of Hereford of the same character. He thought the line taken in the Amendment was an undesirable one. He would certainly oppose it himself. He thought the Bill as it was originally framed a useful one, and one which might have had some chance of passing the other House. But if the noble Lord insisted on the Amendment he was certain the Bill would not find its way on to the Statute-book.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD was sorry to hear the views of the Lord Chancellor. This was a Bill for the suppression of betting in streets and "other public places." The Amendment Lord Davey had moved referred to other public places only. Surely the sea-beach was a public place.

The Earl of HALSBURY: No, it is not. There is a strong decision of the Courts that it is not a public place, and the public has no right of access to the beach.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD said that if the noble and learned Lord were to advise the Government to prevent the public from going to the beach, there would be a great outcry. Practically the beach was a public place. Lord Davey, when he originally introduced the Bill, made it much wider, but the Home Office interfered, and said the Bill must be confined to streets. But such a restriction was useless. Betting men did not carry on their business in crowded thoroughfares. The Bill not only referred to streets, but also to any public park or garden. Betting men frequently assembled on vacant spaces, under railway arches, and on the sea-beach, but the Lord Chancellor now laid it down that these must not be interfered with. The Lord Chancellor said, in fact, to these men, "We permit you to go to the sea-beach, under arches, or on vacant ground if you like." Was this good legislation? Was it calculated to put a stop to the betting nuisance? The object of the Bill was not to interfere with a poor man betting as against the rich man. It was an endeavour to stop betting that was done in public places, and was thereby an evil. He knew the strength of the Lord Chancellor's battalions. He could not say that he yielded to the weight of the noble and learned Lord's argument, but, if his battalions were brought to bear, he was afraid Lord Davey and himself would be compelled to yield to superior forces, but not to superior arguments.

Lord DAVEY said that in the circumstances he would not persist in his Amendment.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH expressed a hope that the noble and learned Lord would not drop the Amendment. The Lord Chancellor had said the sea-beach was not a public place. He would be quite willing to meet the Lord Chancellor by saying that where the sea-beach was not a public place the Bill should not apply to that particular sea-beach, and that could be easily effected by altering the clause and making it run: "Public park, garden, or sea-beach." The word "public" would then cover both park, garden, and sea-beach, and put them in the same category.

Lord DAVEY was prepared to accept his noble friend's suggestion, and moved his Amendment in that form.

Amendment, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 1, line 5, to leave out the word 'or,' and in line 6, after the word 'garden,' to insert the words 'or sea-beach.'"—(*Lord Davey.*)

The Earl of HALSBURY doubted very much whether the Amendment would effect what the noble Lord suggested. He would, however, put it to the House.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD moved an Amendment making the definition of the word "street" include "any vacant ground open to the public, common ground not used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto, or any space under a railway arch." He was very much encouraged by the decision which had just been given to move his Amendment. Unless they extended the definition of the word "street" in the manner he proposed, the Bill would have little effect. On page 2, line 10, the words occurred—

"For the purpose of this section the word 'street' shall include any highway, or any public bridge, road, lane, footway, square, court, alley, or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not."

That, he understood, was not objected to by the Lord Chancellor. He (Lord James) wished to amend the definition by making it apply also to any vacant ground open to the public, common ground not used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto, or any space under a railway arch. He did not wish to argue the case in a spirit of hostility with the Lord Chancellor, but he hoped the noble and learned Lord would give way on this point.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 12, after the word 'not' to insert the words 'or any vacant ground open to the public, common ground not used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto, or any space under a railway arch.'"—(*Lord James of Hereford.*)

THE EARL OF HALSBURY pointed out that the Amendment of Lord Tweedmouth came within the ordinary limits of the Bill as originally designed. The present Amendment, however, was different. He thought that no better example could be forthcoming of the injurious suggestion that ground used as a racecourse or any space adjacent thereto should be excepted from what he might call the moral and physical aspects of what it was intended to prohibit. It was a bad example of class legislation, and he reserved his opposition until the Third Reading, when he would move the rejection of the Bill.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

*THE EARL OF CREWE moved to insert after Clause 1 the following new clause—

"Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to any ground used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto on the days on which races take place."

This Amendment neither added to nor subtracted anything from the Bill. It was merely designed to make its intentions perfectly clear. The Bill as introduced was a Street Betting Bill, but its scope had been somewhat enlarged. He would call their Lordships' attention, in particular, to the phrase "public park." There were several racecourses in England which were in parks, the property of corporations or large bodies of townspeople. Whether these were public parks in the sense intended by this Bill he was not prepared to say, but he thought it possible that some people might be disposed to imagine they were, and bring actions into Court to stop betting there. It would, therefore, in his opinion, be desirable to save their money and the time of the courts. He believed they would all agree with what the Lord Chancellor had said, that if there was any question of dealing with betting on racecourses it should be done explicitly by the direct instruction of Parliament, and not by a side road of this kind. He understood that Lord Davey approved of his Amendment, and he hoped the House would accept it unanimously.

Amendment moved—

"After Clause 1, to insert the following new clause, 'Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to any ground used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto on the days on which races take place.'"—(*The Earl of Crewe.*)

LORD DAVEY said it was rather strong to say that he approved of the Amendment. He was of opinion that the Amendment was not necessary at all. The Bill was not framed with the intention of including a racecourse, but was constituted on a rather different footing, and he could not conceive that excluding a racecourse could be said to be legislating for the rich. On the contrary, he thought that by not including racecourses in the Bill he was avoiding that difficulty. He would dislike extremely to legislate differently for one class as against another, but the poor enjoyed betting on racecourses just as much as the rich. If the noble Earl thought it worth while to persist in his Amendment he would not object to it, as it only expressed what was proposed.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY thought that the Amendment of the noble and learned Lord (Lord James of Hereford), which had been accepted, introduced an element of incongruity with this Amendment.

LORD DAVEY was afraid the noble and learned Lord was under a misapprehension. Lord James of Hereford's Amendment expressly excluded grounds used for the purpose of a racecourse, and the object of Lord Crewe's new clause was also to exclude grounds used for the purpose of a racecourse.

*THE EARL OF CREWE explained that the Amendment of Lord James of Hereford would allow betting to take place on all land used as a racecourse all the year round, but by his Amendment it could not take place except on the days set apart for racing.

The Earl of HALSBURY said he would put the Amendment, but it would be found that the construction would land them in a difficulty.

On Question, Amendment agreed to.

Bill to be read 3ª on Monday next; and to be printed as amended. (No. 30.)

MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL [H.L.].

Amendment reported (according to order).

***The Earl of LICHFIELD**: My Lords, I wish to make an appeal to the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War with reference to the time at which the notice under this Bill is to be given to the local authorities. I quite understand that your Lordships decided in Committee that the period was to remain three months, but if the noble Earl could see his way to insert a provision in the Bill that the local authorities should receive these notices in each year before the 1st of May it would be a decided concession, as most of the county councils hold their meetings in May.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (The Earl of Donoughmore): My Lords, I have had an opportunity of discussing this with the noble Earl opposite, and am quite prepared to meet him by inserting at a later stage a provision that the notice must be given not later than May 1st.

Bill to be read 3ª To-morrow.

THE CASE OF THE "ANTILLIAN."

Lord MUSKERRY, who had given notice "Again to call attention to the case of the captain of the British steamer 'Antillian,' who was imprisoned under circumstances of a degrading character by the Mexican authorities at Vera Cruz; to ask His Majesty's Government whether they now can give any further information as to their negotiations in this matter with the Mexican Government; and whether, owing to the representations of His Majesty's Government, there is now a probability of the claim for compensation lodged by the captain on behalf of his owners and himself being satisfactorily settled," said: My Lords, I only propose to trespass on your time to a very small extent in again calling your attention to the case of the captain of the British steamer "Antillian," and the claim for compensation lodged by the captain and his owners, in the first place, for personal degradation and injury to health to himself, and, in the second place, for satisfaction to his owners for the serious and unjustifiable detention of the steamer.

The noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will be quite aware of the circumstances of the case; in fact, when I brought this matter before your Lordships last year, I was exceedingly gratified and obliged by the sympathetic way in which he had interested himself in the matter. To mention the circumstances briefly, the captain was ordered by his agents at Kingston to carry a number of labourers, with their effects, to Chencan on the Mexican coast. He was told that on arrival at this latter place there would be a Customs official and a doctor awaiting him. On arrival he found that this was not the case, and he therefore landed the labourers, with their effects, and proceeded on to Vera Cruz. He stated quite openly to the authorities what the nature and the circumstances of his passage had been. Great was his surprise four days after, and on the point of sailing, when the port authorities at Vera Cruz arrested him and confined him in the common gaol amongst criminals of the worst kind. Thanks to the splendid way in which the British Consul and the British Vice-Consul at Vera Cruz interested themselves on behalf of this British subject in adversity, and also to the action of Mr. Duff, the British Minister at Mexico, the captain was ultimately released on bail amounting to 3,000 dollars, and the steamer was permitted to leave under, I am informed, a bond of 20,000 dollars.

In reply to the representations of the Merchant Service Guild on the case, the Foreign Office stated that they were informed that the captain appeared to be in a state of complete nevous prostration in consequence of his treatment. I might also mention that he lost the command of his steamer for the time being, and undoubtedly suffered greatly in health for some time after. The noble Marquess on the last occasion was good enough to say that *prima facie* the captain's treatment was of a harsh and unjustifiable character, and that it was the duty of His Majesty's Government to pursue inquiries into the matter. Also that, to say the least of it, he had been subjected to very disagreeable and painful surroundings which occasioned him for a time a loss of health. The Court which tried the case acquitted the captain of criminal responsibility, and the noble Marquess stated that certain papers before him showed that Mr. Grant Duff spared no pains to convince the authorities that the captain had been guilty merely of an error of judgment, and that no crime could be imputed to him. Further, I was informed that the noble Marquess understood that the Board of Trade were of opinion that some claim for compensation existed. Personally, I feel that there is little probability of compensation being granted in such cases as these unless the claims are advanced in a very firm way.

The captain of the "Antillian" has undoubtedly had a lot of sympathy from our authorities, for which I judge he is duly thankful. At the same time both his owners and himself are, I feel perfectly sure, justified in considering that more than this is due to them. I should be greatly obliged to the noble Marquess for any further information on this case, and if he could give some definite assurance that compensation will be granted, it would be appreciated not only by those particularly concerned, but by our merchant captains generally, who often require to carry on the business of British ships in foreign ports under circumstances of the greatest difficulty, and who, I am sorry to say, in many cases receive no assistance or sympathy from those to whom they rightly look for it—that is, our British representatives abroad.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, I am afraid I have not much to add to the statement I made on this subject last year. I will not to-night again recite the facts. They have been, I believe, correctly given to the House by the noble Lord behind me. The captain of the "Antillian" committed an irregularity in landing at a port which was not a port of entry and where there was no Customs House. He was tried and treated, I believe, with some harshness in a Mexican prison. I imagine Mexican prisons are not very agreeable places in which to pass even the three days which the captain of the "Antillian" had the misfortune to spend in this particular prison. The captain then and there wrote a letter to the Mexican authorities, intimating that he intended to claim £1,000 as compensation for himself and £3,000 in respect of the ship. After the question had been debated here we communicated with our *Chargé D'Affaires* in Mexico, and we learned from him that the owners of the "Antillian" intended to consider what action they should take after the verdict of the Court had been given. The verdict of the Court was given, and a fine of £100 imposed on the captain, but since that time we have heard nothing of any action on the part of the owners or of any intention of theirs to lodge a formal claim for compensation. In a case of this kind the usual course would be that the owners should formulate their claim and bring it before His Majesty's Government, whereupon His Majesty's Government would consider the particulars of the claim and whether it was of such a character as they could support. Those preliminaries have not taken place, and we have, therefore, not had in our possession any particulars of the claim sufficient to enable us to take it up diplomatically.

House adjourned at five minutes past Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 16*th March*, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY [STAMP DUTIES].

Resolution reported,

"That, in lieu of the Stamp Duties which would have been payable upon the deeds or assurances which, in case the Bill had not been passed into an Act, would have been required to pass to and vest in the Society certain property, there be charged a Stamp Duty of five pounds, and such Duty shall be impressed upon the copy of the intended Act to be delivered to the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies under the section of this Act the marginal note whereof is 'Copy of Act to be registered.'"

Resolution agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill that they have power to make provision therein pursuant to the said Resolution.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP B).

Mr. CAWLEY reported from the Committee on Group B of Private Bills; That the parties promoting the Gas Light and Coke, South Metropolitan, and Commercial Gas Companies Bill had stated that the evidence of Vivian B. Lewes, Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Vivian B. Lewes do attend the said Committee To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That Vivian B. Lewes do attend the Committee on Group B of Private Bills To-morrow, at Eleven of the clock.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures; Mr. Grant Lawson; and had appointed in substitution: Mr. Hare.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Orders confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time Tomorrow.

Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill; Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill; Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed

Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 1).

Sir HENRY KIMBER reported from the Committee on Group No. 1 of Railway Bills; That Mr. Donal Sullivan, one of the members of the said Committee, was not present during the Sitting of the Committee this day.

Ordered, That Mr. Donal Sullivan do attend the Committee on Tuesday the 28th March, at Eleven of the clock.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 1).

Sir HENRY KIMBER reported from the Committee on Group No. 1 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned till Tuesday the 28th March, at Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Gloucester, against; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Sunderland, against; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SUNDAY) BILL.

Petition from Grimsby, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition from East Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MILITARY WORKS ACTS, 1897, 1899, 1901, AND 1903.

Account presented, for the period ended 31st March, 1904, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 84.]

NATIONAL DEBT (SAVINGS BANKS AND FRIENDLY SOCIETIES).

Annual Account presented, for the period ended 20th November, 1904 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 85.]

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES).

Annual Account presented, for the year 1903–4, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 86.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Colonel Williams' Estate (King's County)

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that certain landlords in King's County, notably Colonel Williams, owner of an estate at Clonmacnoise, have issued writs against tenants for practically irrecoverable arrears of rent, with a view to compel the said tenants to purchase their holdings; whether Colonel Williams in particular has demanded an average of twenty-four years purchase, he having offered to sell the same holdings a few years ago at an average of eighteen years purchase; and whether he will take any steps in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Land Commission have no information as to the alleged proceedings to recover rent on the estate referred to, and no steps have been taken to initiate purchase proceedings in the case.

Mosquito-Proof Sleeping Rooms for Railway Employees in West Africa.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if, in view of the established relations between malaria fever and mosquito attacks, he will cause inquiry to be made as to the expediency of erecting mosquito-proof sleeping rooms for the employees on our West African railways.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The quarters provided for railway employees in Sierra Leone and Lagos include mosquito-proof rooms. As regards the Gold Coast I have no information, but I will make inquiry. I may add that mosquito nets have also been supplied by Government, but I understand that some change has recently been made in Lagos, and I will inquire about it.

Colonial Conference.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies in what period of the year 1906 will the proposed Colonial Conference take place; whether the instructions to be given to the British representatives will be the same as were given at the last Conference; and whether any opportunity will be afforded to this House of discussing the proposed instructions.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) No date has yet been fixed for the Conference, and no decision has yet been taken as to the subjects referred to in the Question of the hon. Member.

Chinese and White Labour in the Transvaal Mines.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he can state how many machine-drills worked by white men have been replaced by hand-drills worked by Chinese labourers in the Van Ryn and other mines of the Rand; how many white men previously engaged in this occupation are now unemployed; and how many have been transferred to other work at lower wages.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I am not in possession of the details desired by the right hon. Member. The information which I have received is to the effect that machine-drilling can only be properly employed in broad seams, and that resort to it in narrow seams is undesirable in the interest of the safety of the mines and the economic working of the ore. I am further informed that the change from machine to hand working under such circumstances is not likely to lead to a reduction in white skilled labour.

Civil Service Retirement Rules.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will give a reference to the authority under which Departments are given full discretion to call upon efficient established clerks in the Civil Service with less than forty years of service to retire at the age of sixty, and whether any such power was in existence in 1871; or when the Treasury Minute of December, 1886, was issued requiring temporary copyists to forfeit any gratuity earned by them when promoted to the establishment; also whether he will state if the destination of these forfeited gratuities as well as the sums to be confiscated by the exercise of this power of discretionary retirement at the age of sixty, while efficient and with less than forty years of service, was laid down; whether this power of discretionary compulsory retirement at the age of sixty was made known to these temporary copyists at the time of their proposed beneficial promotion; and whether one of them was officially informed in 1894 that he could not, under the regulations then existing, and would not, if efficient, be called upon to retire before the age of sixty-five.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) Discretion has always rested with the head of a Department to call upon any of his officers to retire at the age of sixty; and attention was expressly called to this power in the Order of Council of August, 1890. No question arises as to forfeiture of gratuity in the circumstances referred to in the Question. Gratuities were only payable upon retirement, and a temporary copyist when promoted to the establishment became eligible for a pension instead. I have no knowledge on the point raised in the last sentence of the hon. Baronet's Question.

Pay of Officers of Irish Agricultural Department.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether any intimation was given, in or about February, 1903, to the Irish Agricultural Department that recurrent applications to the Treasury on behalf of their officers should cease, and that the sanctioned scales of pay should be left to their operation; and, if so, whether any such intimation was intended to apply generally; and, if not, to what particular officers or class of officers such intimation had reference.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) The letter to which the hon. Member refers related to the Estimates submitted by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for the year 1903–4, and was of a confidential character. I cannot undertake to discuss the terms or purport of such a document in reply to a Question in this House.

Memorial of Association of Assistant Clerks.

MR. THORNTON (Clapham): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury when it is expected that a reply will be given to the memorial submitted to the Treasury by the Association of Assistant Clerks in December, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) I hope to be able to give a reply very shortly.

Towns Sold under the Irish Land Act, 1903.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can state the names of towns sold under The Land Act, 1903, and the number of purchasing tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) Early in 1904 the Estates Commissioners undertook to purchase portion of the town of

Boyle, the houses in which portion were held by yearly tenants direct from the landlord. With this exception no towns or villages have been purchased by the Estates Commissioners under the Act of 1903. In some few cases advances have been made for the purchase of houses in villages by the tenants of such houses where the village formed part of an estate mainly agricultural or pastoral in character.

Royal Irish Constabulary — Statutory Retirement Rules for County and District Inspectors.

MR. DELANY: To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he will state what are the statutory rights of county and district inspectors of the Royal Irish Constabulary which forbid their reduction in proportion to that of the rank and file of the force.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) Under the Acts relating to the Royal Irish Constabulary officers cannot retire on pension, except on the grounds of ill-health, until they are sixty years of age and have completed forty years service. The rank and file of the force can retire on pension at twenty-five years service, and they attain their maximum pension at twenty-nine years service.

Importation of Dogs.

MR. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if it is proposed to remove the restrictions on the importation of dogs into the United Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) I think my hon. friend will see that the maintenance of efficient arrangements to prevent the importation of rabies from abroad is more than ever necessary now that this country has happily been free from that disease for more than two years.

Provision of Working Class Dwellings in Rural Districts.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the President of the Local Government Board how many houses for the working classes have been built or provided by the councils in rural districts under The Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, and the Acts amending it; and what are the names of the parishes and counties in which they have been built or provided, and the number of houses so built or provided in each of such parishes.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I have no information as to the number of houses actually provided in rural districts under these Acts, but the following table gives particulars of the cases in which loans have been sanctioned for the purpose:—

Rural District.	Parish.	County.	Date of Sanction.	Amount of Loan.	Number of Houses.
				£	
Thingoe - -	Ixworth -	West Suffolk	20 Dec., 1892	1,700	8
Sevenoaks -	Penshurst -	Kent - -	28 Sept., 1899	1,575 225	6
do. - -	do.	do. - -	9 Oct., 1902	1,850	8
Westbury and Whorwellsdown	Bratton -	Wilts. - -	3 Dec., 1903	1,000	4
Maldon - -	Bradwell-near-the-sea	Essex - -	28 Sept., 1903 22 April, 1904	1,250 200	6
				£7,800	32

Lease to King of Belgians of Bahr-el-Ghazal Territory.

Mr. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether at any time any portion of the Bahr-el-Ghazal territory was leased to the King of the Belgians; and, if so, on what terms and for what time was such lease made; and whether such lease is still in existence, or whether it has been cancelled; and, if so, when was it cancelled.

(*Answered by Earl Percy.*) Particulars with regard to the lease of a portion of the Bahr-el-Ghazal territory to the Sovereign of the Congo State will be found in the Parliamentary Paper, Treaty Series, No. 15, 1894. The lease was made subject to a reservation of the rights of Egypt, which revived on the reconquest of the Soudan.

Naval Shooting—Admiral Percy Scott's Inventions.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty, considering the improvement in naval shooting by the use, in the naval gunnery schools, of Admiral Percy Scott's inventions, will order the immediate equipment of all Naval Reserve drill ships, batteries, and Volunteer Reserve drill premises with these instruments.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The general introduction of these instruments for use in the naval service is necessarily a costly proceeding, and the sea-going Fleet is the first consideration in the order of supply. Some of these instruments, moreover, are not considered necessary instructional appliances for Royal Naval Reserve and Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve men, and in other cases are not suitable for use with the drill armaments of the establishments in question. Such, however, as are suitable and considered necessary are being supplied when available.

Rules under the Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether rules have now been made and are in force with respect to all the subjects mentioned in the schedule to The Railway Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900; if not, which of the subjects are still without rules, and at what stage is the action necessary to make or complete the rules respecting it or them; and whether any application has been made to his Department under the provisions of Section 14 of the same Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) Rules have been made with respect to all the subjects in the schedule of the Act referred to with the exception of those numbered 1, 7, and 8, and the rules are in force except those relating to boiler-gauge glasses and water gauges on engines, which come into operation next August. The subjects in the schedule not yet dealt with by rule are "brake levers on both sides of waggons," "the position of offices and cabins near working lines," and "the marking of fouling points." As the hon. Member is aware, the Board of Trade were desirous that the brakes to be used should be capable of being both applied and released from either side of a waggon, and proposed a rule to that effect; but so far no form of brake that has been tested has proved altogether satisfactory. Further trials will, however, be made, and it has been arranged to hold such trials at the beginning of next month. As regards the other points the Board are advised that they can be dealt with, as occasion may arise, more conveniently than by general rule under Section 1 (1) of the Act. No application has been made to the Department under Section 14 of the Act.

Sugar Convention and Golden Syrup.

Mr. HARMOOD-BANNER (Liverpool, Everton): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade under what circumstances it has been found necessary to issue a circular marked C. 893 proposing to invite the Permanent Sugar Commission to include golden syrup in the Sugar Convention; and whether, seeing that the proposal would necessitate all syrup manufacturers working in bond to the detriment of the small manufacturers, he will consider the advisability of withdrawing the circular.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) No circular making any proposal of the kind suggested has been issued. I suppose by the reference number quoted that allusion must be intended to a confidential inquiry made by the Board of Trade as to the opinion of syrup manufacturers not working in bond with regard to the classification of syrup for the purposes of the Sugar Convention. It is evidently important that the Board of Trade should know the views of the trade on a matter affecting their interests, and there can be no question of withdrawing the inquiry.

Accidents to Railway Servants.

MR. JOHN ELLIS: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade what were the numbers out of the totals of 410 railway servants killed, and 3,882 railway servants injured, in 1904 from train accidents and movement of trains and vehicles, of goods guards and brakesmen, permanent way men, and shunters, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The numbers, subject to possible slight alterations before the Returns are published, are as under:—

	Goods guards and brakesmen.	Permanent way men.	Shunters.
Killed - - -	28	104	27
Injured - - - -	721	161	587

Annual Leave in Exeter Post Office.

MR. SOARES: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that in 1899 an arrangement was entered into at Exeter between the Department and the staff with reference to annual leave, and that the staff made certain sacrifices, and in consideration thereof the Department agreed to send a certain number of the staff on holidays throughout the season of annual leave; and, seeing that the holidays for 1905 have been altered by the Department without reference to the staff, whether the Postmaster-General will state the reasons for the Department departing from its part of the compromise of 1899.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) In 1899 the Department arranged that the Exeter telegraph staff should receive the greater portion of its annual leave in the eight better months of the year, and this arrangement is still in force. Owing to pressure of work in the summer it cannot be arranged for the same number to be away in July, August, and September as in the remaining five months of this period.

Postal Service at Glastrigan, North Tipperary.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware of the necessity that exists for a better postal service at Glastrigan, North Tipperary; is he aware that there is an extensive creamery business carried on there, having two auxiliary depots, and that there are also three business houses in the village, with two schools adjacent, where some 150 children attend daily; that those establishments have little more than one hour daily to manage their correspondence, inasmuch as the single post arrives about 9 a.m. by a postal messenger who returns again to Borrisoleigh at 10.15 a.m.; and whether, seeing that the letters from the creamery alone average 80 per week, he will consider the necessity for the establishment of a sub-post office at Glastigran.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The inquiry which I promised the hon. Member last week is not yet complete. When it is complete I will communicate the result to him.

Barking Sewage Outfall — Compulsory Acquirement of Land by the London County Council.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has issued a Provisional Order under the provisions of Section 152 of The Metropolis Management Act, 1855, giving to the London County Council powers to compulsorily acquire lands for the treatment of sewage in connection with their northern outfall system at Barking; and, if so, whether he will suspend such Order until such time as the local authority within whose district such lands are situated shall have been heard in accordance with the request contained in their letter of 7th March, 1905; whether, seeing that the land available for such purpose in the immediate neighbourhood is limited in area, and surrounded by densely-populated districts, the requirements of the Local Government Board as to the area of bacteria beds for the treatment of sewage on the lines proposed will be complied with.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) No, Sir. What is required of me by the Metropolis Management Act is, not to make a Provisional Order, but merely to give or withhold my consent in writing to the compulsory acquisition of land by the London County Council. I have not yet given this consent, and I will not give it without full and careful consideration of the objections urged by the Barking Urban District Council.

Adulteration of Wine.

MR. ALBAN GIBBS (London): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps have been, or will be, taken for preventing the fraudulent admixture with port, sherry, and claret, of British wines made from currants and raisins paying a very low duty (and in a lesser degree made from foreign grape-must paying no duty), in view of the injury caused to the revenue.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Only two days ago I received from the Board of Inland Revenue a Report on this subject founded on such information as the Board have been able to procure. I propose now to consider the whole matter carefully; but the hon. Member will understand that some time must necessarily elapse before I am able to announce what steps, if any, I may find it advisable to take for the better protection of the revenue derived from imported foreign wines.

Mr. Dane's Mission to Cabul.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is yet in a position to state briefly the result of Mr. Dane's Mission to Cabul.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Mission is still at Cabul, and it would not be in the public interest to make any statement at present.

Coopers Hill School of Forestry.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is now prepared to lay upon the Table the scheme for removing the Coopers Hill School of Forestry to Oxford, and the correspondence relating thereto.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I am prepared to lay Papers upon the Table.

County Kerry Evicted Tenants—McCartie Estate.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received applications from Mrs. Johanna Bowler, Mr. Denis Healy, and Mr. Patrick Sullivan as evicted tenants on the McCartie Estate at Headfort, county Kerry; and if the Commissioners have done or propose to do anything in connection with the applications, as the sale of the estate is now proceeding.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The Estates Commissioners have received applications from the persons named, whose claims will be inquired into and reported upon by the inspector when he visits the estate. A request to the Land Judge, under Section 7, has been issued in regard to this estate, but the particulars have not yet been furnished.

Irish Tithe Rent-Charge Redemption—Claim against Mr. Sinnott.

SIR THOMAS ESMONDE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how is it that Mr. Sinnott, of Ballinaclash, Enniscorthy, county Wexford, has been sued by the Irish Land Commission for £4 11s., tithe rent, in respect of his holding of fifty-four acres which he purchased under the former Land Purchase Acts, and under which purchase the proportion of the original tithe rent-charge due on his fifty-four acres should have been redeemed by the vendor, and in view of the fact that the total tithe rent for the 128 acres comprised in Ballinaclash was only £3 a year, and that seventy-four acres of that townland have been purchased by other tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) Before the purchase Mr. Sinnott, and not his landlord, was liable for payment of the tithe rent-charge, as he held under a lease made in 1798 for 999 years. Since the purchase by Mr. Sinnott the question of the liability has been the subject of litigation, and by an order of Mr. Justice Ross, made 7th March, 1904, Mr. Sinnott's future annual liability has been fixed at £1 11s. 10d. per annum. The £4 11s. mentioned in the Question represents unpaid arrears.

Armagh Technical School Headmastership.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the recent appointment of a Mr. Caffery to the headmastership of Armagh Technical School, he can state what the qualifications of this gentleman are; was his name upon the register according to the Act of 1902 which dealt with secondary teachers; and in what papers, if any, was the vacancy advertised.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) Mr. Caffrey holds advanced certificates from the Board of Education, South Kensington, and the City and Guilds of London Institute in building trades subjects and possesses practical experience of a character such as to fit him for the duties of the post. The Department are not aware whether Mr. Caffrey's name is upon the register of teachers formed by the Teachers' Registration Council under the Order in Council of the 6th March, 1902, as they do not require that persons holding posts of this character should be on the register. The vacancy was advertised by the local committee in the following papers, *Irish Times*, *Freeman's Journal*, *Manchester Guardian*, and the *Scotsman.*

Compulsory Education of the Blind in Ireland.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Government to bring in a Bill this session for the compulsory education of the blind under similar conditions to that at present existing in England and Scotland; and, if not, will any steps be taken to give effect to any of the recommendations of the Royal Commission of 1885.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The recommendations of the Royal Commission can only be given effect to by legislation. The question of the introduction of legislation in the present session is under consideration by my right hon. friend.

Comyn Kenny and Longworth Estates.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the date upon which agreements for purchase of the Comyn Kenny and Longworth Estates were entered into by the Congested Districts Board; and whether the land has yet been given to the tenants in the district; and, if not, why.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) In the case of the Comyn Kenny Estate the agreement for purchase with the vendor, in pursuance of Section 79 of the Land Act of 1903, has not yet been entered into owing to certain requirements under the rules not having been complied with, but it is expected that the agreement will shortly be completed. In the case of the Dames Longworth Estate, the agreement for purchase was executed on the 1st February last, but the estate has not yet been vested in the Board. The Congested Districts Board are not in a position to divide lands amongst the tenants until the property is legally vested in them.

South African War—Forage Contracts.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the statement of the Comptroller and Auditor-General that the Director of Supplies in South Africa from October, 1902, to December, 1903, disposed of stores which realised £474,000 to three firms, two of whom were forage contractors to the Army; what was the loss to the Government by these sales; who these contractors were; whether they are still on the list of Government contractors; why oats and oat-hay, which had been purchased during January, 1903, at 17s. 11½d. and 17s. 8½d. per 100 lbs., were sold to the same contractor who supplied this forage for 11s. and 10s. per 100 lbs. respectively between January and March, 1903; and whether the amount of £21,232 allowed for deterioration was in respect of forage supplied by the selfsame contractor; and why the contracts asked for in reference to these transactions have not been transmitted to the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The names of the contractors are E. Stepney, of Standerton, South Africa; Messrs. Meyer and Co., of Pretoria; and Messrs. Wilson and Worthington, of Pretoria. Two of these contractors hold contracts for the year 1904–5. The copies of the contracts called for were, on receipt of the audit query, obtained from South Africa; they have not yet been forwarded to the Auditor-General, as they are at present detained for the special inquiry at the War Office to which I alluded yesterday. The other points raised can hardly be dealt with within the limits of an Answer to a Question. They will form part of the reply which will be sent to the Auditor-General after the inquiry has been held.

South African War—Comptroller and Auditor-General's Demand for Copies of Store Contracts.

MR. LEVY: To ask the Secretary of State for War why the requests made by the Comptroller and Auditor-General during 1904 for copies of certain contracts for supplies of stores, etc., for the South African War have not been complied with; and whether it is the intention of the War Office to supply copies of these contracts to the Auditor-General.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The copies of the contracts, for which the Auditor-General asked, were at once called for from South Africa. These contracts have been under investigation by the Committee which is now sitting at the War Office, but I have given orders that they shall be forwarded at once to the Auditor-General.

Nigerian Civil Servants' Grievances.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that some discontent has been caused among Civil servants in Northern Nigeria, who were engaged on the understanding that they were to receive a local allowance of 5s. a day until permanent houses were provided and the high cost of living was reduced, and whose allowance is now to be curtailed to 2s. 6d. a day in the provinces and 1s. a day at Zungeru and Lokoja, although many of these officers are still unprovided with proper houses, and the cost of living has rather increased than declined; and what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The High Commissioner has received representations from several Civil officers of Northern Nigeria on the subject of the reduction of the "local allowance" which has recently been made in certain cases. This reduction is in accordance with the conditions of their appointment, in which it was explained that an allowance of 5s. a day would be granted as a temporary measure in view of the inconvenience to which they would be exposed through there being no permanent houses and of the comparatively high cost of living under the conditions prevailing when the administration was being established, but that the arrangement would be subject to revision when these conditions were improved and permanent quarters had been provided. The reduction of the allowance which, with the concurrence of Sir F. Lugard, is now being made, is confined to cases where permanent quarters are provided, and the reduced allowance is being fixed at rates varying according to the cost of living at the different stations. Officers who are not provided with permanent quarters will continue for the present to receive the allowance at the rate of 5s. a day as before.

Royalty on Cape Colony and Transvaal Diamonds.

Mr. RANDLES (Cumberland, Cockermouth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the royalty on diamonds in Cape Colony is 1 per cent. on the value of diamonds, whilst it is 60 per cent. of the profits in the Transvaal; and whether he will, in the interests of the newer colony, consider the advisability of assimilating more nearly these royalties.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) No comparison is possible between the two colonies in this matter, as in the Transvaal the right of mining for and disposing of all precious stones was under the law of the late South African Republic, and is also under British law vested in the Crown, and there is no such law in the Cape Colony. I may add that in the Cape an income-tax has been introduced to which the mines contribute largely. I am not prepared to contemplate altering the Transvaal law.

Currency—International Conference.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government intend to take any steps to promote an International Conference with the object of securing a stable basis of currency and exchange between the leading commercial Nations.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) The Government do not contemplate taking any steps in the direction suggested in the Question.

Redistribution of Seats Bill.

Mr. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to introduce the Redistribution of Seats Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. A. J. Balfour.*) In the present condition of public business I cannot fix a date for introducing proposals in connection with redistribution.

South African War Contracts—Names of Contractors.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state the names of the firms supplying the 1,034,532 emergency rations and the 4,537,090 meat and vegetable rations, stated at page 257 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General as having been destroyed in South Africa; whether his attention has been called to the statement in the Report in question that of the 1,034,532 condemned emergency rations 955,727 were supplied by Messrs. Maconochie, and to the statement that this firm substituted 365,600 rations on account of condemned supplies, many of these substituted rations being also subsequently found to be unsound; and whether he will state the nature of the final claim against this contractor recently submitted to the Treasury, as described on page 258 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) As regards the first part of the Question, the names of the firms, so far as they can be traced, are as follows:—Maconochie Brothers; Poulton and Noel; London Canning Company; Moir and Wilson; Moir and Sons; Davidson, R. and W.; Sturton Brothers; Bruce, W.; Aberdeen Preserving Company; Duhamel and Company; Milne and Son; Morton, E. and C.; Bovril, Limited; Chamberlain, H. R.; Woolwich. The reply to the second part of the Question is in the affirmative. The final claim on Messrs. Maconochie is for £2,500.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

H.M.S. "Grafton."

Mr. MAJENDIE (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty when H.M.S. "Grafton" returned home; and if she is to be paid off at Portsmouth or Chatham, and when.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The "Grafton" reached Portsmouth from the Pacific Station on December 30th, 1904. She will be paid off at Portsmouth on April 3rd.

Greenwich Hospital Chapel.

Sir ERNEST FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the

Admiralty if it is possible to arrange that the chapel at Greenwich Hospital shall be open to the public on Saturday afternoons at a later hour than 3 p.m., in order to enable a larger number of people to enjoy an opportunity of visiting the interior.

THE CIVIL LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. ARTHUR LEE, Hampshire, Fareham): The chapel at Greenwich Hospital is closed on Saturdays at 3 p.m. in order that the men whose duty it is to prepare it for the services on the following day may be enabled, on the completion of this work, to take the few hours leave to which they are entitled. In these circumstances I regret that I am unable to arrange for the chapel to be kept open beyond that hour.

Somaliland Treaties.

MR. HARWOOD (Bolton): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the treaties which it is alleged compelled us to undertake the expeditions into the interior of Somaliland will be considered as abrogated now that it has been decided to undertake no more such expeditions, and, by restoring arms to the tribesmen, to return to the condition before these treaties were agreed upon.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): No, Sir, the Answer is in the negative.

Baku Massacres.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can inform the House of the extent of the massacre of Armenians by the Russians at Baku.

EARL PERCY: I presume that the hon. Member refers to the disturbances which broke out on Sunday, February 19th, between the Tartar and Armenian inhabitants of Baku. From a report received from His Majesty's Consul at Batum it appears that the fighting lasted for four days, during which Armenian houses were burned and pitched battles took place between the two parties. Members of several leading Armenian families were besieged in their houses and put to death, the number thus killed being estimated by some at over 500 and by others at nearly 1,000. The total loss of life is stated to have been nearly 2,000. Order was at last restored by the joint intervention of the Governor and the ecclesiastical authorities of the Mussulman and Armenian communities.

Income-Tax Collection.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Inland Revenue officers (Excisemen) are being employed to collect the arrears of income-tax in Scotland; and whether this is also being done in England and Wales.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): In Scotland practically the whole of the income-tax is collected by Inland Revenue officers. In England and Wales, Inland Revenue officers are employed for the collection only in certain of the urban districts, and only for tax under Schedules D. and E. Wherever the collection is entrusted to Inland Revenue officers, those officers are employed to collect arrears as well as the rest of the tax.

In reply to a further Question, the right hon. Gentleman said the nomination of collectors rested in England mainly with the District Commissioners, and it only fell to the Inland Revenue when they failed to nominate or nominated one who could not give security.

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): Is it not the case that only within the last two years this practice has been adopted in Scotland?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I do not know whether the hon. Gentleman has personal experience of the practice more than two years back. I understand it has been the practice for many years, but if a Question is put down I will inquire.

Inoculation at Glasgow—Vivisection Returns.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state how many animals were inoculated with the rabies virus in the performance of the two experiments carried out by Mr. R. M. Buchanan, at the Veterinary College, Glasgow, under The Cruelty to Animals Act, 1876, referred to in the Government Inspector's Report for 1903; and will he state the number of animals used for the purpose of vivisection under the above Act for the years 1903 and 1904.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): In the two experiments in question two rabbits were inoculated, not with rabies virus but with emulsion of the brain of a dog which had been killed by the police on suspicion that it was rabid. The experiments were carried out at the Glasgow Public Health Laboratory, not at the Veterinary College. In answer to the second part of the Question, I have to say that the Returns for 1904 are not yet complete. In 1903 the number of experiments performed was 19,084, of which nearly 17,000 were inoculation or feeding experiments. The number of animals used for the purpose of these experiments cannot be precisely stated, but it is slightly less than the total number of experiments.

Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Bill.

MR. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he hopes to be able to introduce the Workmen's Compensation Act Amendment Bill.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: This Bill will be introduced in another place, probably to-morrow.

Unproductive Prison Labour.

SIR ERNEST FLOWER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can state whether any cranks or tread-wheels are still in use in His Majesty's prisons; and whether any form of unproductive labour still exists.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: No form of unproductive labour now exists in His Majesty's prisons. At two prisons the machinery of wheels and cranks is still in use as a means of pumping water, but employment on this duty is for ordinary prison service, and is no longer a prescribed form of hard labour.

Women Inspectors of Prisons.

SIR ERNEST FLOWER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take into consideration the desirability of appointing a woman inspector charged with the special duty of inspecting the women's department in His Majesty's prisons.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: My Answer to this Question must be the same as that which was given to the hon. Member by my predecessor, the right hon. Member for Croydon, on the 31st January, 1902,† namely, that the appointment of women inspectors of prisons was fully considered on the Report of the Prisons Committee of 1895, and it was determined to meet the want by an extension of voluntary aid. There is now no prison in which women are confined without a staff of duly appointed lady visitors. The work of these lady visitors is very well and thoroughly performed under the auspices of the Lady Visitors Association, whose President is the Duchess of Bedford.

Laundry Work in Religious Institutions—Powers of Inspection.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether there is any official list of establishments belonging to various religious societies where laundry work is carried on; and whether the Government propose to introduce legislation to make such laundries subject to the ordinary law.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Yes, Sir, there is such a list. It was prepared after the passing of the Factory Act of 1901, in fulfilment of the promise made by my predecessor at the time. I do not contemplate introducing legislation such as the hon. Member suggests. I may add that about half these laundries have consented to be inspected, and are, at the present time, regularly inspected by His Majesty's Inspectors of Factories and Workshops.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cii., 28.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: Including those belonging to the Roman Catholic Church?

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Certainly; that is the whole point.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: No, it is not the whole point.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman give a list of the institutions inspected?

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I do not think there will be any objection to that; but if the hon. Member will put down a Question I will consider it.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: Also of those that refuse to allow inspection?

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): Is it not a fact that when proposals were before the House for inspecting these institutions, many Protestant institutions objected to inspection on the same ground as Catholics did?

The London Census.

Mr. REA (Gloucester): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board what steps he proposes to take with regard to the taking of a census of London in 1906 similar to that taken in 1896; whether he proposes that the census should include ages, and any other information, beyond a mere enumeration of the population; and whether it will extend to Greater London and the county boroughs.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. Gerald Balfour, Leeds, Central): The census taken in London in 1896 was obtained for the purposes of the London Equalisation of Rates Act, 1894, and I am in communication with the Registrar-General and the London County Council on the question whether a census should be taken for a like purpose in 1906, and if so, what it should contain. A census for this purpose would obviously be limited to the Administrative County of London.

South Metropolitan School District.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board why the order for winding up the South Metropolitan School District, which was dissolved by the Board in 1898, has not been issued, all the parties being in agreement.

Mr. GERALD BALFOUR: It was found necessary to obtain legislation to provide for the transfer of property and other matters consequent upon the dissolution of districts of this kind, and an Act was obtained for the purpose last year. There were still some difficulties as to the transfer of stock belonging to the district in the books of the Bank of England, but an Order has now been made with the concurrence of the Bank which is expected to put an end to these difficulties, and to enable the affairs of the district to be wound up without further delay.

Shipping Freight Rebates.

Mr. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can say if the system of rebates granted by steamship owners to shippers, as it exists in this country, has been declared illegal in the United States; and, if so, whether this was done by a decision of the Law Courts, or by legislative enactment; and, if by the latter, can he give the reference number of the statute.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars): I am not able to say definitely whether any final decision has yet been arrived at in the United States Courts with regard to the legality or otherwise of the system of rebates, but I am aware that the question has been raised under an Act of Congress of July, 1890, cap. 647.

Preferential Shipping Rates to South Africa.

Mr. CHARLES ALLEN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Conference Lines of steamers sailing to South Africa grant preferential rates to the United States shippers as compared with those which they grant to shippers in this country; and whether, in view of this handicap to

British export trade, he proposes to take, or has taken, any action.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The attention of the Board of Trade has been called to the matter to which the hon. Member refers, and it is receiving careful consideration.

Seamen's Wages.

Sir HARRY SAMUEL (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state how the rate of wages at present paid to seamen in our mercantile marine compares with the rate paid in 1890.

Mr. BONAR LAW: Rates of wages of seamen vary considerably according to the class of man, class of vessel, voyage and port. The average rates of money wages of A.B's shipped at five large ports in Great Britain on steamships engaged in four of the principal foreign voyages are now between four and five per cent. lower than in 1890, which was a year of maximum wages. Particulars of recent changes in seamen's wages were published in the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette* for December, 1904.

Nationality of Seamen in the British Mercantile Marine.

Mr. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state how the number of British seamen employed in our mercantile marine in 1903 compares with the number employed in the same service in 1888; also if he can give similar information with reference to foreign seamen employed in our mercantile marine.

Sir HARRY SAMUEL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state the present number of foreign seamen employed in our mercantile marine, and the number of British seamen employed in the same service.

Mr. BONAR LAW: In 1888 the number of British persons, not including lascars, employed in vessels belonging to the United Kingdom, Isle of Man, and Channel Islands engaged in the home and foreign trades was 179,969, and in 1903 the number was 176,520. The number of foreign persons so employed was 25,277 in 1888, and 40,396 in 1903. This information answers also the Question put by my hon. friend the Member for Limehouse.

Sir HARRY SAMUEL: Is it not the fact that a large number of the seamen in the British mercantile marine are engaged in British ports?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I should like to have notice of that Question.

"British" Guns made Abroad—Infringements of the Merchandise Marks Act.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he is aware of the practice of foreign gun makers of sending to this country gun barrels, gun actions, and complete guns for the purpose of having the English proof marks placed upon them, thereby concealing the foreign origin of the goods, and that these foreign guns, after being so marked, are sold at home and abroad as British-made arms, sometimes with English makers' names on them; and whether he will take steps in the interests of British gun-workers under the Merchandise Marks Acts, 1887–1891, or by some other means, to put a stop to this practice.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The attention of the Board of Trade has been called to this matter, and they have stated that they are prepared if any specific case of infringement of the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887, with regard to the marking of foreign made guns is brought before them in accordance with their regulations under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1891, to consider carefully the question of instituting proceedings.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the majority of guardians who govern the proof house are men who import foreign guns in a more or less finished state, mark them with the British proof mark and sell them everywhere as British goods, although there is only a few shillings' worth of British labour in such goods and in some none at all? Will he make inquiry into this matter?

MR. CROOKS: Do the Government themselves purchase from private firms any goods manufactured in this manner?

MR. BONAR LAW: I cannot now answer the Question of the hon. Member for Woolwich. With regard to the Question of the hon. Member for Bordesly, I am aware of the general facts. The secretary of the association which represents the gun-workers has promised to furnish a specific case, and until that is done the Board cannot take any further action.

Brendon School—Teachers' Duties.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the advertisement issued on behalf of the Devon Education Committee, for a certificated headmaster for Brendon, average about fifty, also supplementary teacher, Art. 68, salary £20 to £35, harmonium church, extra, choral service; and whether he will call the attention of the committee to Article 15 of the Education Code, which states that the teacher is not to be required to perform any duties except such as are connected with the work of the school.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): I have no information as to the case referred to by the hon. Member. The action of the Board in such cases must necessarily depend upon the circumstances of each particular case.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will the hon. Gentleman call the attention of the committee to the fact?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: If the hon. Member will furnish me with the necessary information I will consider the matter.

Underfed School Children.

*MR. J. F. HOPE: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he hopes during the present session to introduce legislation dealing with the feeding of children in public elementary schools.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: It is not intended to introduce any such legislation during the present session.

Buckingham Palace Approach.

MR. PURVIS (Peterborough): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, when the main approach from Charing Cross to Buckingham Palace is to be completed.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): It is impossible to forecast the date of completion at present; it is not only a question of making a street but of completing the building which is to be placed at the end of it, of which an elevation will within a few days be exhibited in the tea-room of the House.

The Extension of the Mall.

SIR WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston): I beg to ask the hon. Member for the Chorley Division of Lancashire, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether any design has been prepared for finishing off the blank wall left by the demolition of the two houses in Cockspur Street to make room for carrying the continuation of the Mall through to Charing Cross; and when it is expected that the works for opening out the road opposite to the entrance to Drummond's Bank will be commenced.

LORD BALCARRES: I think I can only refer the hon. Baronet to the reply given to the last Question.

Highland Water Supply.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether special water supply districts in the Highland crofting counties which have been formed under the Public Health Acts since The Agricultural Rates (Scotland) Act, 1896, was passed, will be brought within the scope of the Act when it is renewed.

*THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): The Secretary for Scotland does not contemplate the introduction of a Bill to amend the Act referred to by the hon. Member.

North Sea Investigations—H.M.S. "Jackal."

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state on how many days last year H.M.S. "Jackal" was employed on the International North Sea investigations; and was any application made to the Admiralty for the services of a cruiser to take up the sea police duties for which the "Jackal" was originally detailed.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: During the year 1904 the "Jackal" was employed in connection with the North Sea Investigations for a total period of twenty-seven days, on three different occasions of nine, eight, and ten days each. No relief ship was applied for.

Fish Carriage from Ullapool to Kyle.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether he is aware that the steamer engaged by the Congested Districts Board to convey fish from Ullapool and other ports en route to Kyle has broken down on several occasions since the middle of February; and will he state whether arrangements can be made for the employment of a more efficient steamer.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: I am aware that the steamer engaged to carry fish from Ullapool to Kyle broke down. The cause of the breakdown has now been removed, and there is no reason to believe that an efficient service cannot be maintained.

Mr. WEIR: It has broken down on several occasions.

Scottish Parochial Medical Officers.

*Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if his attention has been directed to the numbers of cases of dismissal of medical officers in Scotland, and the hardships suffered thereby by the poor, and to the Report of the Departmental Committee of the Local Government Board to inquire into such cases, and to the fact that the Medical Association has publicly advertised warning applicants against accepting appointments in certain parishes; and if, under all the circumstances, he will bring the urgency of the case before the Government with a view to immediate legislation.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The matters referred to have been considered by the Secretary for Scotland, but the Government cannot undertake to legislate on the subject this session. The hon. Member has himself introduced a Bill on the subject, and, as he is aware, the question is a very controversial one.

*Mr. CATHCART WASON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that practically all the Scottish non-official Members are in favour of the right to appeal, and have signed a memorial to the Secretary for Scotland to that effect.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: I am not.

Shetland Whaling Stations—Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if, in view of the nuisance caused by the manner in which certain whaling stations ended their operations in Shetland, the Government will introduce at an earlier date a measure providing for the regulation of these operations.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The Secretary for Scotland has already introduced a Bill entitled the Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, and the Local Government Board are in communication with the local authorities concerned as to the framing of by-laws to regulate the industry.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: Where will the Bill be introduced?

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: It has been introduced in another place.

Scottish Tables of Precedence.

Mr. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he can state the reasons why, in the scales of general precedence in Scotland, published in the *London Gazette* of March 14th current, precedence in Scotland is given to Dukes of England over Dukes of Scotland, whilst Dukes of Great Britain come last, and similarly with regard to other titles, the holders of English titles taking precedence of holders of Scotch titles; and whether such table of precedence in Scotland is compatible with the Treaty of Union between England and Scotland.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I would refer the hon. Member to Article 23 of the Act of Union, which clearly defines the order of precedence between members of Scottish, English, and British Peerages in the sense of the scale of precedence which has been recently issued.

MR. CALDWELL: Is there not this important difference in the case of Scotch Peers who by the Treaty of Union become Members of the House of Lords, that they sit in England and attend Court in England, whereas in the present case we are dealing with precedence limited to Scotland alone?

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): Before the Lord-Advocate answers, may I ask where do the Irish Dukes come in?

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I have enough to do with Scotch Dukes. According to the right construction of the statute, I think the view of the hon. Member is not sound, and that the procedure adopted in the scale of precedence published is the right one.

MR. CALDWELL: Can you explain why it is that the question of precedence should be broken up into nationalities, and not be made applicable to the United Kingdom as a whole?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member will no doubt find other opportunities of arguing this question.

Experimental Science Teaching in Ireland.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will explain for what reason the teaching of experimental science under the Board of Education in Ireland is now being stopped for want of funds; and whether, in view of the fact that the teaching of experimental science in Irish national schools has the approval of all creeds and classes, he will renew the grant required to meet the necessary expenditure.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): At the request of my right hon. friend I will reply to this Question. The period for which the original grant for the science training of teachers by the Board's organisers was made expires on the 31st instant. It is not correct to say that the teaching of elementary science has been stopped for want of funds; on the contrary, instruction in elementary science is progressing in the schools and there is no reason to anticipate that it will diminish in the future.

MR. SLOAN: Why has the renewal of the grant been refused?

MR. ATKINSON: The period for which it was made has not yet expired.

Irish Language in Irish Schools.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, did the teachers under the Irish National Board who failed last July to obtain certificates of competency to teach Irish receive notification of their failure from the Education Office; and will those teachers who heretofore taught Irish successfully, and were certified by Irish-speaking inspectors as competent, receive results for the teaching of Irish in the future, though having no formal certificates.

MR. ATKINSON: The results of the last July Examinations in extra branches (Irish included) have been notified to the principals of the training colleges or to the managers in the cases of all those who were successful. It is not the practice to issue notification of failure except upon special application from the manager or teacher concerned. Every teacher of an extra branch is required to produce a certificate, or other satisfactory proof, of his qualifications to teach that subject.

Land Purchase in County Limerick—Gascoigne Estate.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that applications for the sale of the Gascoigne Estate in and around Kilfinane, in the county of Limerick, have been lodged with the

Estates Commissioners; and that a petition has been lodged with the Commissioners by the Town Tenants' Association of Kilfinane on behalf of the inhabitant occupiers of that town; and whether, seeing that untenanted land previously in the occupation of the landlord and situated at Spa Hill, near the town, has been lately broken into small applotments and assigned to the estate bailiff, thus creating a new tenancy and frustrating the intention of the Land Act of 1903, while other applotments have been advertised for sale by public auction, so that the landlord may have two profits, one from the tenant right, and the other from the purchase money to be advanced by the Estates Commissioners, he will say what action the Commissioners will take on the petition.

MR. ATKINSON: I regret to have to ask the hon. Member to postpone this Question till to-morrow. I have to make the same request of other hon. Gentlemen who have Questions on the Paper. Owing to the storm there has been a telegraphic breakdown and it has been found impossible to obtain from Ireland the necessary information to enable Answers to these Questions to be given.

Report of the Estates Commissioners and the Land Act, 1903.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether, in view of the forthcoming debate in connection with the administration of the Lands Act, 1903, he will take steps to have the Report of the Estates Commissioners dealing with that Act immediately laid upon the Table of the House.

MR. ATKINSON: Every possible effort is being made to expedite the preparation of this Report.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: As the right hon. Gentleman is aware, the first Vote to be discussed on Monday is the Land Commission Vote, and on the following day there is to be a debate on almost the same subject, and we cannot discuss these matters properly without information.

MR. ATKINSON: I will do my best to hasten its presentation.

Caldbeck Estate, Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he can now state what course the Estates Commissioners propose to adopt with reference to the contemplated sale of the Caldbeck Estate, Ballacolla, Queen's County, in view of the fact that the landlord and his agent have parcelled out 241 acres of untenanted land amongst a few business men, large graziers, and the bailiff of the estate, to the prejudice of thirty-four small occupiers on this and neighbouring estates whose holdings require enlargement.

MR. ATKINSON: The inspector's report on this subject has not yet been received by the Estates Commissioners.

Ireland—Teachers in Bilingual Schools.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in case of schools where a bilingual programme is adopted and approved of, arrangements will be made that inspectors competent to examine children orally in Irish will be sent to examine and report on the progress and proficiency of the pupils; and whether teachers of such schools will be eligible for promotion to the highest grade.

MR. ATKINSON: Schools in which the bilingual programme is adopted with the approval of the Commissioners will be inspected from time to time by the inspectors competent to judge of the progress made by the pupils The teachers of such schools will be eligible for promotion to the highest grade under the usual conditions prescribed in the rules.

Kerry County Council and Mr. Cyril Browne.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the unanimous resolution of the Kerry County Council, at a special meeting on December 28th, condemning the partisan manner in which Mr. Cyril Browne referred to the officials of the Kerry County Council; and, if so, having regard to his partisan reports, the injury he tried to inflict on the ratepayers, and the dissatisfaction he has given to public men in the county, this officer will be still retained in the public service.

Mr. ATKINSON: The Local Government Board have received the resolution referred to. They consider that there is no ground whatever for the accusation contained in it. The auditor in his report pointed out, as the fact was, that the accounts of the county council were in some respects kept in a slovenly and inaccurate manner and the bonds and other documents improperly filled up. This, though true, is styled in the Question "partisan" conduct. The Local Government Board consider that the auditor faithfully and fearlessly discharged his duty, and they will continue to avail themselves of his valuable services.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why the auditor, Mr. Cyril Browne, who recently audited the accounts of the Kerry County Council did not include his objection to the manner in which the accounts are kept or to the way in which the public moneys are apportioned in the accounts or estimates in his report to the county council instead of making a private report to the Local Government Board as to the manner in which the purchase price of the Limerick and Kerry Railway was apportioned in accounts and estimates of the Kerry County Council.

Mr. ATKINSON: The auditor's report to the county council contains all the criticism which he found it necessary to make on the items in the account before him. His confidential communication to his superiors merely had reference to the manner in which he should examine into this exceptional matter.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, in connection with the printing contract of the Kerry County Council, the auditor, Mr. Cyril R. Browne, was made aware that an action was pending in the superior Courts in connection with this contract; and, if so, will he explain why this auditor issued a separate report on this matter a month in advance of his general report, and directed that a copy be at once given to the plaintiff, so that it might reach him in time for the trial; whether he is aware that, when evidence was tendered by the county secretary, showing the unsatisfactory manner in which this contractor had discharged former printing contracts, the auditor failed to take down this evidence or include it in his report, and to make any reference in his report to the affidavit of the county secretary showing the reductions in the cost of printing and advertising in the different boards of the county by the competition recently introduced; whether the auditor submitted this evidence to the Local Government Board; and, if so, what action, if any, they will take; and whether the auditor in disputing the contention of the county council that printing is not a public work has been authorised to do so by the Local Government Board.

Mr. ATKINSON: The facts are not accurately stated in the Question. The contract before the auditor was for the printing for the year 1903-4. That which was the subject matter of litigation was for the succeeding year 1904–5. The auditor did not issue any separate report on the contract before him. Application was made to him under the 12th Section of the Local Government Act of 1871, and 15th Section of the Act of 1902, to annul the contract and surcharge all the payments made thereunder, on the ground that the lowest tender had not been accepted and that the county council in accepting it had acted *mala fide*. The auditor decided in favour of the county council, holding that their conduct was not *mala fide*. He gave that decision in writing as he was bound to do under statute. The objector was entitled to be made aware of his decision and hence the auditor communicated with him. The final payment under the contract for 1903–4 did not come before the auditor at all. That will be included in the accounts to be submitted for the next audit, when the evidence referred to will become pertinent, and if offered will, if legal, be received and considered. Until the next audit the Local Government Board have no power to interfere in the matter. The auditor is bound to determine questions of law raised before him, independently, according to the best of his ability and without communication with his superiors, who sit as a Court of Appeal on his decision.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Was not the auditor's report used by the plaintiff as evidence in an action which arose out of the matter?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish National School Teachers' Increments.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what degree of proficiency is necessary in Irish national schools to entitle a teacher to an increment within the second division of first grade, and not obtaining promotion to the first division of first grade; and how many teachers whose records were three "goods" for the three preceding years have got such increments since the introduction of the new rules.

Mr. ATKINSON: In the case of teachers in the second division of first grade awards of continued good service salary are made triennially to the teachers of schools with an average attendance of not less than fifty pupils, when the work done in the school shows merit, and the general condition of the school is satisfactory. The Commissioners form their judgment of the merit of the work and of the condition of the school from the reports of their inspectors and the official records. The Return asked for cannot be furnished, as three good reports, though forming an important element in the circumstances for consideration in connection with the award of increments, would not necessarily secure such award.

Rent Appeals in County Clare—Scanlon's Case.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Edward Scanlon and his son Michael, of Laccaroe, Tulla, county Clare, applied to the Land Commission, sitting at Ennis in December, 1902, to have a fair rent fixed; that the Scanlons lodged appeals against the rent fixed; whether he can say if this appeal is listed for hearing by the Land Commission about to sit at Ennis on the 21st instant; and, if not, can he say what has become of them; and, if it should be found that their absence from the list is due to any mistake on the part of the Land Commission, will he see that the tenants concerned are not put to any further delay and loss by directing that their appeal shall be heard at the next sitting of the Commission.

Mr. ATKINSON: Two applications to fix fair rents in respect of portion of the lands of Lecarrow, in which Edmond Scanlan is described as tenant, and Daniel O'Connell as landlord, were received by the Land Commission, and subsequently listed for hearing before a Sub-Commission at Ennis on the 9th December, 1902. Orders were made fixing judicial rents in these cases on the 9th May, 1903. Applications to have these cases reheard do not appear to have been lodged on behalf of either party. The case of Michael Scanlon, tenant, cannot be traced.

Marquess of Conyngham's Clare Estate.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will inquire if appeals lodged by two tenants on the Marquess of Conyngham's, county Clare, Estate, named Stephen Collins and Mary Landers, against rents fixed by the Sub-Commission, are listed for hearing at the coming sitting of the Land Commission, to be held at Ennis on the 21st instant; and, if not, can he explain why they are not on the list; and will he see that they are listed, so as not to put those tenants to the loss and inconvenience of further delay.

Mr. ATKINSON: In the case of Stephen Collins and Mary Landers, tenants, Marquess of Conyngham, landlord, in which judicial rents were fixed by the Sub-Commission, it does not appear that any notices have been lodged on behalf of the tenants to have the cases reheard before the Land Commission. The applications for a rehearing in these cases, which appear in the list of fair rent appeals to be heard at Ennis on the 21st instant, arise out of the landlord's application for rehearing.

Kinvara Harbour.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the County Council of Galway have as yet approved of the plans of the Board of Works for the improvement of Kinvara Harbour; and, if so, what is the cause of the delay in having the works commenced at once.

MR. ATKINSON: The county council have signified their approval of the plans, but before the conveyance of the harbour from the present owner can be accepted it is necessary that the county council should obtain evidence of title, and negotiations to this end are proceeding. It is hoped that the matter may shortly be satisfactorily arranged.

MR. DUFFY: In view of the fact that money is available and that great distress exists in the district, will the right hon. Gentleman make strong representations to the Government in favour of the work being put in hand at once?

[The Answer was inaudible.]

Civil Service Clerks in the Royal Irish Constabulary Office.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of Civil Service clerks at present employed in the office of the Royal Irish Constabulary; has any reduction taken place since the force has been gradually reduced; and, if so, to what extent.

MR. ATKINSON: The number of Civil Service clerks at present employed in the Royal Irish Constabulary Office is nineteen. No reduction has taken place in the number of clerks since the reduction of the Constabulary commenced, as there has been no reduction in the clerical work to be performed.

Batiboys Police Barrack.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a petition signed by the chairman of petty sessions, who is a deputy-lieutenant of the county Wicklow, by all the magistrates and by ratepayers, irrespective of creed or politics, against closing the police barrack at Batiboys, county Wicklow; and whether it is his intention to accede to the wishes of the inhabitants of the district in this matter.

MR. ATKINSON: The petition in question has been received. No sufficient reason is shown in it for varying the decision to abolish the police station at Baltiboys. The district is peaceable, and the police requirements of the locality can be adequately met from the adjacent stations, of which there are three within a radius of four miles.

Newport Police Doctor.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Dr. Gill, of Westport, county Mayo, who until lately held the position of dispensary doctor and surgeon to the police at Newport, in the same county, was asked by the police authorities to resign the latter appointment on changing his residence to Westport; and can he state why he was compelled to give up the police appointment.

MR. ATKINSON: I beg to refer the hon. Gentleman to the Answer which I gave to this Question yesterday.†

DR. AMBROSE: But why was the appointment given to a doctor in Westport?

MR. ATKINSON: I said yesterday that the last holder of the office took the post of dispensary doctor at Westport, necessitating his daily attendance there, and he could not therefore fulfil the duties of police surgeon.

DR. AMBROSE: Surely it is as impossible for a doctor to do it who lives eighteen miles from the police barrack?

Physical Deterioration Report.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Government will refer the Report of the Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration to a Select Committee of the House of Commons.

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† See page 36.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to my right hon. friend I have to say that, so far as the Report to which he refers relates to public elementary schools, a Departmental Committee has been appointed to obtain precise information as to the extent of the evils complained of, and I think, in the meanwhile, the course he suggests would not be desirable. I should like to reserve judgment on that until the Departmental Committee has reported.

SIR JOHN GORST: Has the Committee only just been appointed?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: It has not been appointed long. If the right hon. Gentleman will put down that Question it shall be answered.

Reports of the Public Accounts Committee and of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on South African War Expenditures.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will give an early day for the discussion of the Report of the Public Accounts (1904) Committee and of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on South African War Expenditures, issued last Friday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman asks two Questions. One relates to the Public Accounts Committee of last year. On that I do not think I can at present add to what I have already stated. I should certainly yield at once, not only willingly but gladly, to a generally expressed wish of the House that the Report should be taken on one of the days allotted to Supply, but I do not exactly exclude the idea of taking it on an unallotted day; but it is quite impossible for me, until I see my way much more plainly with regard to general business, to give any pledge on the subject. With regard to the second half of the Question, in my opinion this matter of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is of a very serious character and requires to be thoroughly sifted. What the best method of sifting it is I do not at present say. The very last thing I desire is that the House should be excluded from any legitimate opportunity of probing the matter to the bottom.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.): Will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to expedite the setting up of the Public Accounts Committee, to which reference has been made from the Treasury Bench as the proper tribunal to deal with this Report?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think that properly falls within the functions of the Executive Government. In so far as I properly and legitimately can, I will do everything to meet the views of hon. Gentlemen.

MR. BLAKE: I would call the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the fact that the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury has had a notice on the Paper for some time for the setting up of that Committee.

DR. MACNAMARA: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of the fact that the Public Accounts Committee on Army Appropriation did not report last year until after the House had risen. Will he therefore expedite the setting up of the Committee?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I am not fully informed of all the technicalities of the matter, but I will do all I can.

Alien Immigration.

SIR HARRY SAMUEL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he is now in a position to inform the House when the Bill for the restriction of alien immigration will be introduced.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot name a day for the introduction of the Bill for the restriction af alien immigration, but I hope it will not be a late one.

Juvenile Smokers.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the number of petitions presented to this House with regard to juvenile smoking; and whether he will consider the advisability of introducing legislation on the subject. May I explain that when I put down the Question I was not aware that the hon. Member for North Camberwell was introducing a Bill on the subject. Perhaps, therefore, the right hon. Gentleman will only consider it necessary to reply to the first part of my Question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My attention has been called to the petitions on the subject. I do not know that I can with advantage add to that bald statement of fact.

*MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe): Will the right hon. Gentleman give facilities for the discussion of my hon. friend's Bill. As it only deals with juvenile smoking there is probably general agreement in its favour.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think I can promise facilities for a private Bill, but if the principle is generally accepted, there should be little difficulty in passing it.

It being 2.55, the SPEAKER proceeded to interrupt Questions.

South African War Contracts.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War an urgent Question, of which I have given him private notice, arising out of an Answer which he gave yesterday, viz., whether he will state who were the contractors who supplied 1,350,816 tins of jam for South Africa, each containing twelve ounces instead of sixteen ounces, as per contract?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): The Question I have had from the hon. Gentleman refers to another set of contracts. The hon. Member's Question asks for the names of the contractors who supplied the emergency rations, and the meat and vegetable rations. Is that the hon. Member's present Question?

DR. MACNAMARA: No, Sir. What I am asking is for the information promised yesterday.

*MR. SPEAKER: A Question on the Paper, not yet reached, cannot be answered. I understood the hon. Member was asking a Question which was important, in view of the Army Estimates coming on, and of some pledge that an Answer should be given to-day.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I did undertake to give an Answer to-day. I saw the hon. Member this morning, and I understood that he desired me to anticipate the Question on the Paper. I will give him this Answer now, and the other Answer the moment the Question on the Paper comes before the House.

DR. MACNAMARA: I now ask for a fulfilment of the pledge which the right hon. Gentleman gave, viz., that he would state the names of the contractors in respect of the jam supplied.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: As a matter of fact, we made no contracts for jam. I believe that they were made in Australia. I did understand the hon. Member to ask me for the names of the contractors mentioned in his Question on the Paper to-day, and I have the names in my hand, and I will give them to the hon. Member.

DR. MACNAMARA: Well, I will take them.

*MR. SPEAKER: I hardly follow what is going on. If the right hon. Gentleman is proceeding to ask at 3 o'clock a Question on the Paper which has not been reached, that will be out of order.

DR. MACNAMARA: With great respect, let me explain that I am asking for the redemption of a pledge given here yesterday, that we should have the names of the contractors in respect to the supply of 1,350,816 tins of jam, which are alleged to have contained twelve ounces instead of sixteen.

*MR. SPEAKER: That I understood was a Question different to the one on the Paper.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Hon. Members know well enough that I have no desire not to answer any Question that is asked. The hon. Member was good enough to see me this morning, and he told me that the Question he had put down in reply to my suggestion yesterday could not come on until Monday. I understood that was the Question on the Paper to-day, and I have been furnished with the particulars. We did not, as a matter of fact, give any orders with regard to the jam; but if the hon. Member desires to ask the Question down for Monday I shall be glad to answer.

Dr. MACNAMARA: The Question which I put now agrees substantially with that which I propose to ask on Monday.

***Mr. SPEAKER:** If I had been aware that the Question the hon. Member was putting was already on the Paper for Monday I should not have allowed him to ask it. The subject cannot be pursued; it is five minutes to three o'clock.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): On a point of order, Sir, yesterday the Secretary of State for War promised to answer to-day my Question as to who were the contractors for the jam supplied to the Army in South Africa. I wish to ask whether the right hon. Gentleman is prepared to answer it now.

***Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER:** It is not on the Paper.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: I did not put it on the Paper because the right hon. Gentleman promised to give me an Answer to-day.

***Mr. SPEAKER:** Order, order! This discussion cannot proceed.

NEW BILLS.

AGED PENSIONERS BILL.

"To provide Pensions for the Aged Deserving Poor," presented by Mr. Goulding; supported by Mr. Remnant, Mr. Griffith Boscawen, Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. Forde Ridley, and Mr. Bull; to be read a second time upon Friday, April 14th, and to be printed. [Bill 102.]

HOME INDUSTRIES BILL.

"To provide for the better Regulation of Home Industries," presented by Colonel Denny; supported by Mr. John Burns, Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. Emmott, Mr. Fenwick, Sir Michael Shaw-Stewart, and Mr. John William Wilson; to be read a second time upon Thursday, April 13th and to be printed. [Bill 103.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the adjourned debate on the Motion relative to Business of the House (Supply, etc.), do have precedence over the Business of Supply this day."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 271; Noes, 186. (Division List No. 54.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hn Sir H.
Bagot, Capt Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Capt. C. B (Hornsey
Balfour, Rt Hn G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt Hn J A (Glasgow)
Campbell, J H M (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J A (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)

Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies,SirHoratio D.(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T R (TowerHamlets
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir WilliamTheodore
Dyke, Rt Hn. Sir WilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton.
Faber,Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt Hn Sir J.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,Sir RB (Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Philip S(Warwick, S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn J E (Elgin &Nairn
Gordon, Maj. Evans(T'rH'mlts
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby
Gorst,Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,Walford D.(Wednesbury
Greene,Sir EW(B'ry SEdm'nds
Greene,Henry D (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath,Sir James(Staffords,NW
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J F(Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd.,Tottenham)
Hozier,Hon.James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)

Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel,Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kenyon,Hon Geo.T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hn. Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H L W (Mile End)
Lawson, JohnGrant (YorksNR
Lee,ArthurH (Hants Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick NS
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. CharlesW(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,Reginald J (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,Rt Hn Sir HE(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H. (Dumfrieshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir RobertGray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn Wm RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert

Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel,SirHarry S (Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut-Col. Thos.Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,Abel H (Hertford, East)
Smith, HC (North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,Rt Hn J Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C E H(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt Hn Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col ACE (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G E (Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H (Ashton undLyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Sir W H (Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, R. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt EC (S Andrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Mara, James
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas (W Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn CR (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Sir Frederick (Bristol, N.
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Woodhouse, Sir JT (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the adjourned debate on the Motion relative to Business of the House (Supply, etc.) if under consideration at Twelve o'clock this night, be not interrupted under Standing Order (Sittings of the House), and may be entered upon at any hour, though opposed."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 275; Noes, 189. (Division List No. 55.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J (Manch'r
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Balfour, RtHn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt Hn JA (Glasgow
Campbell, J.H.M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J.A (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, Sir T.R. (Tower Hamlets
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R B (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S (Warwick, S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J.E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Sir E.W (B'ry S Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D (Shrewsbury)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords, NW
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks. NR
Lee, Arthur H (Hants, Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt. Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J Scott (Hants.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl

Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reed, Sir Edw. James (Cardiff)
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, SirHarryS (Limehouse
Sandys, Lt.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H (Hertford, East)
Smith, HC (North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, Rt Hn JParker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn.Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col SirC E H(Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wiliam H
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col ACE (Taunton)
Welby,Sir Charles G.E.(Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W H (Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, CaptEC (SAndrw'sB'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay,Alexander (Lanark,N.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt Hn Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hayter, Rt Hn Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Rt. Hn John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Mara, James
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald

Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, Thomas(WMonm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Maj. JEB (Isle of Wight
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.Hn.CR (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, DavidAlfred (M'rthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W. R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,Arthur Walters(N.Dorset
Wilson, Fred. W (Norfolk,Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, SirJT (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question [15th March], "That, in order to comply with the Law, the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned:—

"At half-past Five of the clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes.

"As soon as the Resolutions so disposed of are reported to the House, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, and the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of any Resolutions proposed in that Committee

"At Ten of the clock on the 23rd day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolution then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the House doth agree with the Committee in all Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and shall then put a like Question on the Resolution reported with respect to the Supplementary Estimates for the Army, and on the Resolutions reported with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy.

"On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported.

"And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put any Question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill.

"And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:—

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

"At Eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any sitting at which Government Business has precedence."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Question again proposed.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he rose to move the Amendment standing in his name upon the Paper, but he did not propose to move it in the exact form in which it appeared. He moved to leave out "comply with the law" in order to insert "expedite business." This Amendment really touched the foundation upon which the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister rested his argument for the extraordinary Resolution that the House was now considering. The words he proposed to delete appeared in the foreground of the Resolution, and in his speech the right hon. Gentleman had based his argument on the legal necessity for taking this step. He denied that there was any legal necessity in the sense the right hon. Gentleman stated it to the House. What was the law with regard to the voting of money by March 31st, upon which this Resolution was based? So far as the amounts required for the present year were concerned, the largest and most troublesome items of Supply, the Supplemental Votes for the Army, were now through Committee after a discussion not too prolonged having regard to the amount of the Estimates. A great deal had been said about the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and from what had been said it might be thought they amounted to millions and were very troublesome to discuss, but as a matter of fact they were less than they had been for years. They had also been partly discussed, and, having regard to the debate that had already taken place, the Somaliland Vote would not have given much trouble, so that there was only £25,000 left to deal with. With regard to the amounts required for the present year, therefore, good progress had been made, and there was, so far as they were concerned, not the slightest necessity for this drastic process. What law with regard to the finances of the coming year compelled this drastic step to be taken before March 31st? It appeared that it was necessary that the Government should be put in funds on April 1st, and that if provision was not made by March 31st the Government would not be in funds. But there was nothing to show that the Government could not be put in funds by that time by the usual procedure under ordinary and normal conditions. If there had been mismanagement of the business of the House, it was quite easy to adopt a simple expedient such as a Vote on Account or some other expedient rather than the drastic procedure proposed by this Resolution.

What had happened? The Army Votes were behind for the reason that everything connected with the Army was in the utmost confusion, but who was to blame for that? Not the Members of that House. They had no control whatever over the matter; there had been no obstruction or nasty questions. They had done everything in their power to expedite business. It was the Government who were in fault; they had kept back the Estimates to a late date, and because the Government had not fulfilled their duty this drastic remedy was said to be necessary to pass the Estimates. Even if some expedient was necessary, he submitted a much more simple one could be found than one which took away the liberties of this

House. The right hon. Gentleman had said the law made this procedure absolutely necessary, but he had not defined exactly what law it was that made this particular Resolution necessary. The law ought to be as strong as the Resolution was drastic, and it ought to be urgent. No such case had been made out on the previous day by the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman said the statute law, the law of tradition, and the law of policy made it necessary. So far as the statute law was concerned no case had been made out, and this proceeding was not justified by the law of tradition because in his speech the right hon. Gentleman admitted that none of his predecessors had adopted an expedient of this kind, which disposed at once of the law of tradition. The tradition of this House was that there should be complete freedom of speech so far as it was possible, and the Resolution of the right hon. Gentleman, instead of providing for that, swept away all the liberties of the House. The real reason for moving this Resolution was to provide a time-table for the right hon. Gentleman's supporters, so that for the next fourteen days they might eat their food in comfort and come down to take part in a division when required. The law of tradition was clearly against the right hon. Gentleman. What did he mean by the law of policy? Was it his own policy of keeping the Government in power? No doubt these shifts were necessary if the House acknowledged that law, but those who sat in opposition did not recognise that law, and therefore they must ask the right hon. Gentleman to justify his Resolution by the statute law alone. He begged to move.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said, in venturing to second the Amendment, he desired to proceed with the arguments he was submitting to the consideration of the right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister on the previous evening. He was well aware that on the previous evening the right hon. Gentleman had stated that money voted for the Navy could be used for Army purposes, and money voted for the Army could be used for the Navy. In his opinion that was undoubtedly a wrong practice, and contrary not only to good government but to the principles of that House; but, as the right hon. Gentleman had pointed out on the previous evening, it was consistent with long usage and had been specifically legalised by a special Act. But what were the terms of that Act? The transfer of money voted for the Navy to the Army was sanctioned by the Public Accounts and Charges Act of 1892, Section 2, paragraph 1, and it stated—

> "That every sum voted by Parliament may be applied towards making good the Supply so granted."

He ventured to draw attention to those words because they had created a doubt not only in his mind but in the minds of persons better able to form an opinion than himself on this matter. It seemed to him that although it was legal to use Naval money for Army purposes, it was not legal under this Act to pay for "Army food" out of "naval pay." If that were true, he would ask the House to consider the position in which they would be placed if they passed this Resolution. By the Consolidated Fund Bill they were going to allocate to the Navy certain money, out of which they could pay the Army provided the Army had obtained a Vote authorising the Treasury to pay it. If his contention were correct, Navy pay could be devoted to Navy food or boots, but not to Army food or boots, so that if this Resolution was passed they would perfectly justified in paying the Army, but it would be grossly illegal to feed or clothe them. That being so, the Resolution must obviously be amended. If the Government accepted the view he had put forward, he submitted that the House could not, without stultifying itself, pass the Resolution as it stood. The case for the Amendment was absolutely overwhelming. If the Prime Minister contended that in spite of the paragraph in the Public Accounts and Charges Act, Navy pay could be used for Army food, all the more necessary was it to eliminate the words objected to, and so free the Army discussion on Vote 1. To take Vote 1 of the Army Estimates without proper discussion would be not only highly undesirable but grossly unconstitutional. The reason full discussion was particularly asked for on the present occasion was that a great change had been proposed in the Army—a change which the Secretary of State himself had said might be compared with that of Mr. Cardwell. But what did Mr. Cardwell and his Government allow in the way of discussion? In that year the Army Estimates were introduced on February 16th. It was now March 16th, and the Army Estimates were still to come. After the Address in that year no less than ten days before March 31st were devoted to the discussion of Army Estimates.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member does not appear to be addressing himself to the Question before the House.

Major SEELY said he was trying to show that it had been the universal practice to allow the fullest discussion on the Army Estimates when great changes were proposed. If Mr. Cardwell gave ten full days to the Army Estimates, what was to be said of a Government who without any necessity in law introduced a Resolution curtailing the discussion on the Army to fewer hours than Mr. Cardwell gave days? The Prime Minister apparently refused to say whether the whole thing was illegal. But even if it was not illegal it was wholly unnecessary. If money allocated to the Navy could be used for any purpose in the Army, and if all money going to the Army could be allocated to any purpose, why was it necessary, in order to comply with the law, to take Vote 1? It was necessary to take Vote A in order to lay down the number of men, but Vote 1, on which general questions of policy were generally discussed, need not be taken. The Non-effective Votes for officers and men, amounting to over £3,000,000, would do just as well for the pay of the Army. Why, then, did the Government refuse to adopt a more reasonable procedure? The immemorial practice of the House was to govern policy by means of Supply. Vote 1, always by far the largest Vote, amounted this year to over £9,000,000, and the House, when once they had passed that Vote, would have parted with more than one-third of their power. In reality, as Parliament was constituted, they would have parted with nearly the whole of their power. It was true the Prime Minister had promised to give an opportunity for full discussion on a subsequent date. He was grateful for the concession, but it would not be the same thing as a discussion on Vote 1. In past years, notably in times of reform, the battle had always raged round Vote 1. If it was wholly unnecessary, in order to comply with the law, that the Government should closure Vote 1, and commit what was almost a Constitutional crime, why did they not frankly abandon the proposal and agree to take the Non-effective Votes? The Government were in this dilemma: either it was possible for the Treasury to allocate to any portion of the Army the money which the House granted to the Navy by the Consolidated Fund Bill—in which case it was unnecessary to take Vote 1, and the words must go—or, in the opinion of Treasury experts, the words would likewise have to go because the Government would be placed in an illegal position by the very fact of doing anything but paying the Army from March 31st onwards until they had passed a new Consolidated Fund Bill. The whole Motion had been conceived in haste, without due consideration of what it would do, or the effect it would have upon the Army Votes or the dignity of the House. He, therefore, appealed to the Prime Minister to reconsider the whole question with a view to finding a way out of the *impasse* in which they were undoubtedly involved.

Amendment proposed—

"In lines 1 and 2, to leave out the words 'comply with the Law,' and insert the words 'expedite business.'"—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) thought these words ought to go, because at the best they were surplusage and really did not mean anything at all. There was no law which compelled the House to do what the Prime Minister wished them to do, while at the worst the words pledged the House to approval of a practice of which it ought not to approve. He did not think the dilemma referred to by the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight existed, because he had no doubt at all as to the perfect legality of the course the Government proposed to take. The Public Accounts and Charges Act had this effect, that money granted by the Consolidated Fund Act for the Army might, in certain circumstances, be appropriated to Navy purposes. The House seemed to have forgotten that for six weeks last year the Army and Navy were being paid for with money originally voted for Civil Service purposes. The dodge was to take a large Vote for the Civil Service, and the Government actually took twenty-three months Supply for that service. Because they could not get so much for the Army and Navy, and in order to avoid a second Consolidated Fund Bill, they paid the Army and Navy out of money voted for Civil Service purposes. Money sanctioned by vote of the House could only be paid by the Treasury after it formed part of the Consolidated Fund. That was the Question the Chancellor of the Exchequer was asked, and he said "Yes." But he was wrong. Once a grant had been made by the Consolidated Fund Act No. 1, the whole of the fund thus created was available for any Vote of Supply carried on Report by the House. Therefore Army money might be applied to Civil Service purposes, because the money was thrown into one common pool, and it could be used for any Votes the House had granted either before or after the passing of the Act. The Public Accounts Committee had condemned this practice, and consequently the Secretary of State for War made a complete change in the form of the Supplementary Estimates to carry out the principle laid down by the Public Accounts Committee. Why should the Government ask the House to sanction this tossing of money about between one Vote and another?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): Do you say it is wrong?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I do say it is wrong. As regarded the Army and Navy the Government admitted that it was wrong, and now, to suit the exigency of this particular moment, they were asking the House to commit itself to a new practice, which, although covered by the law, was never intended to be a recognised practice. The House never intended to give the Government this power, and he challenged the Prime Minister to give them a single case in which the Government of the day had deliberately done what he was now proposing to do now. He challenged the right hon. Gentleman to produce a single instance in which a Government deliberately took money granted for one purpose and used it for a totally different purpose.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he thought it would be most convenient to the House if he dealt with this question at once. He had listened to the speeches, and especially to the last speech, which had been delivered in favour of the Amendment with some surprise. If he rightly understood the principles laid down by the hon. Member for Dundee—which he could not believe had the enthusiastic sanction of hon. Members opposite—they had been violated, not by this Government alone, but by every Government. In this respect there was nothing suggested by the procedure of this year which was not in absolute harmony with our financial traditions. The Government did not want to change the principle of the financial practice or even to modify it. It was because they wanted to preserve it unmodified that this Resolution had become necessary. There was really no obscurity as to the course they were taking or the course which had been habitually taken by their predecessors in obedience to the law. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment admitted that, so far as the Supplementary Estimates were concerned, the law must take its course. Where, in the hon. Member's opinion, the law did not step in was in connection with the finance of the year to come. He did not accept that statement, but even if he did it would not justify the Amendment, because the word "law" had to come in in regard to the finance of the expiring year. If the House did not pass this Resolution, it would be absolutely impossible by any tolerable means to introduce the Consolidated Fund Bill on Thursday, March 23rd, and if they did not do that the Government would not be able to pass that Bill in time to fulfil their obligations. Therefore, on that account, it was necessary that the word "law" should stand.

MR. LOUGH: Why is the 23rd necessary?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said they had to bring in the Consolidated Fund Bill on the 23rd because they could not read the two stages of a money Bill on the same day. The 24th of March was a private Members' day, and on Monday, the 27th of March, they would take the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill; on Tuesday, March 28th, the Committee stage of the same Bill; March 29th, Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee; and on Thursday, the 30th of March, they could take the Third Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill. He was aware that this date was so late that it would throw a strain upon the office which had to deal with the matter, and he hoped it would not be dragged in as a precedent. Therefore the word "law" was justified and appropriate and ought to be retained. He now came to what was, perhaps, more important, and that was the necessity of dealing in addition with the Supply included in and excluded by the Consolidated Fund Bill, that was to say, the question of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates. The hon. Gentleman opposite seemed to think that never before this flagitious Government came into office was it usual to use money voted in the Consolidated Fund Bill for the general purposes of any class which had not been voted. Of course, that was not the case. They must have means of getting money out of the till at the beginning of the next year before they got on with Supply, in order to carry on the work of the country. How was that money to be spent on the Army unless Vote A was passed? Therefore, they must have Vote A.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It is only done in a dissolution session.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, it is done in a dissolution session. Therefore, obviously, it is appropriate now. He was pleased to see that there was no quarrel as to the legality of the course the Government were pursuing. The Consolidated Fund Bill gave them the money, they put the money in the till, but they could not spend it on the services until they got a Vote in Committee.

MAJOR SEELY: Can you spend money voted for Navy pay on Army food?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said they could not do so, but they could spend money voted by the Consolidated Fund Bill on the Army or the Navy if they got a Vote in Committee.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said he agreed that they might spend the money out of the Consolidated Fund upon the Army Votes which had been voted, but he wished to point out that under this Resolution they would vote the Army pay but not any other Army Vote, and consequently, although they would be able to pay the Army they would not be able to feed and clothe them.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Gentleman must know that it was not only legal but necessary, and not only commonly done, but invariably done.

MR. McKENNA: Never! Would the right hon. Gentleman allow him to explain what was commonly done under the Appropriation Act? When money had been included under the Consolidated Fund Act that money might be used for any other Vote in connection with the Army, but in this case the money had not been voted, and they could only use the money which had been voted.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Gentleman was quite wrong, and he would not get a single Gentleman on the front Opposition Bench to say that he was right. The money was put into a general till by the Consolidated Fund Act, and they could not put into that till more than a certain amount, the total amount being determined by the Votes taken. When they had got the money in the till they could take it out for any purpose the House had authorised or voted in Supply.

MR. McKENNA: We have not authorised it.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said they were going to authorise it by passing Votes A and 1. The hon. Gentleman opposite would not get a single authority in or out of the House to accept the view he had stated. Hon. Members seemed to hold that although money had been got by the Consolidated Fund Bill, and although money had been voted for Army purposes by Vote 1, they could not use it for any other purpose except Vote 1. That was an error. Not a single Gentleman on the Opposition side of the House who was acquainted with the financial business of the House would accept that view. He had endeavoured to deal with the Amendment, and he ventured to suggest that the House might now divide upon it.

Mr. McKENNA said he spoke with the greatest deference on this point, but he thought the right hon. Gentleman had fallen into a mistake. They included in the Consolidated Fund Act year by year Votes A and 1 of the Army Votes, and having got them in that Act they could then use the monies so supplied for purposes of the other Votes for the Army. It must be remembered that the money had first to be included in the Consolidated Fund Act. In this case the Army money was not included in the Consolidated Fund Act.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the Consolidated Fund Act did not appropriate at all. It was a perfectly neutral Act, and as long as they had got the money there, all they required was the right to take it out.

Mr. McKENNA said he was dealing with the Appropriation Act of 1874, which was renewed every year. Once the money had been included in the Consolidated Fund Act for any service, that money might be used for any particular Vote. In this case Army Vote 1 had not been included in the Consolidated Fund Act, and the right hon. Gentleman had to go back on the Public Charges and Accounts Act of 1891. Under that Act he was enabled to use any money included in the Consolidated Fund Act for any purpose which had been voted, but the purpose must be voted. The Public Charges and Accounts Act was clear on that point. What the right hon. Gentleman was now endeavouring to do was this: He wanted to throw the Appropriation Act and the Public Charges and Accounts Act into a hotch-potch, and to say that the money which was now being properly devoted to Army pay could be used for any other Vote. He was not justified in doing that. Having got his money for Army pay it could not be used for the purpose of any other Vote unless he got it through the Consolidated Fund Act. Army pay was not included in that Act. The right hon. Gentleman had said that there was no one on the front Opposition Bench who would challenge his interpretation of the law. He was perfectly certain that any right hon. Gentleman on his side of the House who gave attention to the matter would be bound to come to the same conclusion as he had come to, namely, that the First Lord of the Treasury, under the proposal which he now asked the House to carry, would be enabled to pay the Army, but not to feed and clothe it. That was the first point. His hon. friend had put the second point. Why not take other Votes which were not controversial? He was sure the right hon. Gentleman meant to deal fairly with the House. He had stated over and over again that he did not wish to avoid discussion on the Army, but was it equally true that those who advised him on behalf of the War Office were as anxious to have discussion as he was? He said he was going to give a day for the discussion of the Army. The right hon. Gentleman was now admittedly withdrawing from discussion by the Committee of the House Vote 1, and preventing the House from coming to a judgment in detail upon every point open to criticism in the new Army scheme as it arose in Committee. It was not sufficient to tell the House that a day would be given thereafter for a single debate. He asked the right hon. Gentleman, in dealing with the House now, either to drop the provision relating to the Army altogether, or if he still thought it necessary to take out Vote 1 and insert Votes 14 and 15.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said this was a very technical discussion, and, he thought, a very instructive one. He would like to say how it struck him.

The Prime Minister's Resolution was prefaced with the words, "In order to comply with the law." Strictly speaking, there was no law at all. There was nothing but usage that regulated this matter. The case as regarded the law was that they could not pay for any public service until they had a Vote in Supply. Then they had a Vote in Committee of Ways and Means, and then the Consolidated Fund Act, which authorised the issue out of the Consolidated Fund of the money originally voted in Committee of Supply. They could not pay away a halfpenny of public funds until that process had been gone through. It was perfectly true, as the First Lord of the Treasury had said, that in the first Consolidated Fund Act of the session there was no appropriation. All that Act did as regarded the coming year was to authorise the payment out of the Consolidated Fund of a fixed amount, and, according to almost invariable practice, that amount included the Vote on account for the Civil Service, Vote 1 for the Navy, and Vote 1 (pay) for the Army. He did not believe there was a single instance in which the first Consolidated Fund Act of the session had not included a sum voted for the Army. In 1889 a Consolidated Fund Act was passed on March 29th, and a second Consolidated Fund Act was passed on April 1st. The reason was that the Army Vote had not been prepared in time for the Consolidated Fund Act, which had to be passed before March 31st, and so punctilious were the Conservative Government of that day that they actually went to the trouble of passing a second Consolidated Fund Act two days later in order to provide for the pay of the Army. The customary practice of Parliament in relation to this matter was not being followed, but was being violated.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said he would like to point out another difficulty the right hon. Gentleman would get into if he retained the words proposed to be omitted. What was really the practice and intention of Parliament with regard to the Consolidated Fund? They required first of all to get the Votes in Supply. These must be reported to the House. After that there was Committee of Ways and Means and then they got the Consolidated Fund Act. If the right hon. Gentleman retained these words he must insert Votes A and 1 of the Army as well. The right hon. Gentleman was proposing to omit the Army Votes from two stages—the Ways and Means stage and the Consolidated Act. Sub-section 1 of Clause 2 of the Act of 1891, showed that the intention of Parliament was that the Army Vote, or whatever the purposes might be for which money was to be granted, must be in the Consolidated Fund Bill No. 1. That was not so in the present case, and even if he were incorrect in regard to the law of the matter he thought there could be no question as to the intention of Parliament. If the right hon. Gentleman wished to conform to the law, he must add to the Navy Estimates the Army Estimates. The safer course for the right hon. Gentleman would be to drop the words proposed to be left out.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said he did not agree with the suggestion that the words "in order to comply with the law" were not important. After all, this was the sole justification the Prime Minister had put forward for the Resolution. It turned out that not only did this not enable him to comply with the law but he would actually be breaking the law in regard to the Army Estimates. It was well that this should be emphasised again. Every year up to the present, as he understood, Vote 1 of the Army Estimates had been included in the Consolidated Fund Bill, which was carried before March 31st. That enabled the Treasury to use money which had been allocated by the House of Commons for pay for any other purpose connected with the Army. The Government for the first time were departing from that precedent. They were not going to insert the Army Vote in the Consolidated Fund Bill. What was the situation? If Vote 1 for the Army were not included the Government would be breaking the law if they used money for the Army. The Resolution was not to enable the Government to comply with the law, but to break it. If the Government expended a penny of the money voted under this Motion they would be breaking the law. It was perfectly clear that the Prime Minister had not adequately considered the matter, or the difference between the Act of 1874 and the Public Accounts Act. The Chancellor of the Exchequer or the Financial Secretary to the Treasury ought to explain the matter. The House was entitled to an explanation. Last session the Government used the Vote on Account for the Civil Service for the purposes of the Army. That was breaking the law. Now they posed under a different attitude. Last year they were a defaulting authority; this year they posed as law-abiding citizens. Their object this year was the same as last year; it was to avoid discussion on the Army. He would ask the Attorney-General whether, unless Vote 1 were included in the Consolidated Fund Bill, the Government would be entitled to use the money for the purposes of the Army.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said that there was no difficulty whatever about the matter. All the anxiety displayed by hon. Gentlemen proceeded from a mistaken idea that the Consolidated Fund Bill was an Appropriation Bill. The Consolidated Fund Bill was a Bill for granting certain sums for Supply; and the sums so granted might be applied to any purpose for which the House of Commons granted them. For the purpose of passing the Consolidated Fund Act it had always been usual to have Votes passed through all their stages, amounting in the aggregate to the sum given under the Act.

*MR. McCRAE said that the whole point was whether the grant included Ways and Means.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said he thought the hon. Gentleman was confusing the matter, if he would allow him to say so. A certain sum was authorised for Supply generally but not for any particular heads of Supply. No one disputed that in order to comply with the law the Supplementary Estimates should be passed by March 31st; and that, according to immemorial practice, before the House passed the Consolidated Fund Bill they should get Votes through all their stages equal to the amount in the Bill. But the money was not appropriated to any particular purpose at all; and might be applied to any purpose. All that was required for the purpose of making perfectly lawful the application of money to the Army was that Army Votes A and 1 should be passed. The amount in the Act was not appropriated in any way; and might be applied to the Civil Service, the Army, or the Navy. There would, of course, be an opportunity for the fullest discussion in regard to the Army as had been promised by the Prime Minister.

MR. McKENNA asked why it was necessary to include any Army Vote at all before March 31st.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY said the reason was that otherwise there would be no authority for the application to the Army of any part of the sum authorised by the Consolidated Fund Act. A Vote in the House formed the preamble to the Consolidated Fund Bill. He could not really accept the suggestion that the intention of the Government was to avoid discussion on the Army. It was nothing of the kind. The Prime Minister had promised an ample opportunity. The Consolidated Fund Bill was not an Appropriation Bill, and the money authorised by it could be applied to any Supply purpose.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said he thought that the Prime Minister now realised that it would be better if the words objected to were omitted. It had been acknowledged that the course adopted by the Government was most unusual and absolutely without precedent. It had been the invariable practice to include in the Consolidated Fund No. 1 Bill an aggregate sum for the Civil Service, the Navy, and the Army; and this was the first attempt to depart from it. The present proposal was that after the Consolidated Fund Bill had been passed through all its stages the House should be asked to pass two most important Army Votes. That was a highly irregular proceeding. The Prime Minister stated that he did not wish to hinder or restrict the opportunities of hon. Gentlemen for the discussion of the Army Estimates; but according to constitutional practice the best opportunity the House could have was on Vote 1. Why should they not agree to a short discussion on this Motion, and avoid the feeling of resentment that would be likely to arise from it; and include instead of Vote 1, Votes 14 and 15, which would give the Prime Minister something over £3,000,000 with which he could carry on the Army after April 1st. If that course were adopted it would meet with the general wishes of the House, would facilitate the progress of the Resolution, and enable the right hon. Gentleman to fulfil the promise he had made to the House, that it should not be deprived, in any degree, of an opportunity of fully discussing the new Army scheme.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham) said he desired to support the Amendment, and also the request which his hon. friend had addressed to the Prime Minister. The subject was a very difficult one; and he was not surprised that the Government had got into difficulties in connection with it. It was perfectly clear that the Government were on the horns of a dilemma. The arguments which had been advanced from the Treasury Bench were mutally destructive. What were the two conflicting propositions? His hon. friend the Member for North Monmouthshire, in a singularly clear and lucid speech, showed what the law on the subject was. The Prime Minister in his speech showed what the practice was; and it was quite clear that the practice was at complete, or, at any rate, considerable variance, with the strict letter of the law. If that were so, the main, in fact the sole, contention of the Prime Minister for this revolutionary procedure fell to the ground. The Prime Minister said that the law had not been broken, and no doubt he had a large array of legal opinion behind him in support of that contention. Well, assuming that the Prime Minister was correct, and that the law had not been broken. Why? Because when money was voted under the Consolidated Fund Bill it passed into the national till, and might be handed out according to the Votes apportioned in the House. It did not matter by what Vote money was passed into the national till. It was not necessary to fill the till by means of Vote 1. The Government might take a smaller Vote, which, though it might not give the Government so much to go on with, would give sufficient, and it would preserve for the House of Commons a greater measure of control. Apart from that, however, Vote 1 was a more convenient Vote on which to discuss the Army scheme than the Vote for the salary of the Secretary of State. He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should meet the Opposition by taking Votes 14 and 15 or Vote 7 instead of Vote 1, with which, in present circumstances, the House did not wish to part on account of its convenience as a basis for the general discussion they desired.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs) said if the right hon. Gentleman would allow him to tender advice, which was absolutely disinterested, although the right hon. Gentleman might not think so, he would appeal to him to accede to the request of hon. Members interested in Army questions, and who were desirous not to part with Vote 1 until that full discussion which every hon. Member desired had taken place. It had been the habit for many years to take the discussion on general Army topics on Vote 1, although it was sometimes taken on the number of men, and, by agreement afterwards, if the debate was not exhausted, it might be arranged that there should be a discussion on some other Vote. But this was not a case of that kind. The matters to be dealt with on this occasion were so serious that the whole question could not be discussed with satisfaction to the House upon any Vote except Vote 1. There was something inspiriting in discussing a great question like the condition of the Army on Vote 1, which was the pay of the men of the Army. It made a more satisfactory, more real, impression upon the House than would be made if such a discussion was entered into with the knowledge that this Vote was passed and gone altogether from the control of the House. If this discussion were put upon some small Vote it would be reduced to the limits of a purely academic discussion which would not have the same reality that it would have if it had taken place on Vote 1. This feeling was a reasonable one. What reason was there why Votes 14 and 15 should not be substituted for Vote 1, which could be left for the great battle to which they were all looking forward.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said they were all glad to see the right hon. Gentleman back. His appeal did not appear to be relevant to the Amendment before the House, which challenged the accuracy of the Government's view of the law. If the House would consent to part with that Amendment, the Government would discuss the other point as to the way in which money was to be obtained for the Army. He did not wish to throw out hopes that he would yield on that point, which he had not had time to consider.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) submitted that what the Prime Minister had said was a complete justification for the Amendment, for he had promised further consideration as to whether it was necessary in order to comply with the law that Vote 1 should be taken.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he was perfectly certain it was not necessary in order to comply with the law that Vote 1 should be taken. The general object of the Resolution was to enable the law to be carried out, and that was the purpose expressed in the words to which objection was taken.

Mr. WHITLEY suggested that the words "comply with the law" governed each and every item of the succeeding clauses.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: No.

Mr. WHITLEY: The right hon. Gentleman now practically admits that the words are not strictly true.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: On the contrary, I have made two speeches to show that they are absolutely justified.

Mr. WHITLEY contended that if the substitution of Votes 14 and 15 of the Army Estimates for Vote 1 in the Resolution would equally comply with the law, his hon. friend had proved his case and the words were unnecessary. Why did the right hon. Gentleman persist in wasting time by refusing to withdraw words which were incorrect and not essential to the Motion. The words were really a part of the right hon. Gentleman's introductory speech, and were inserted to put the Motion on the high plane of compliance with the law, whereas the debate had shown that it could claim no such justification. The Prime Minister had not been able to quote the law which required to be thus complied with, and yet he would not withdraw these words and allow the House to get to the really operative part of the Motion. The Attorney-General would doubtless agree that what he (the hon. Member) had said was quite correct.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: No, I do not.

Mr. WHITLEY asked whether the Attorney-General did not admit that the substitution of Votes 14 and 15 would meet the requirements without taking Vote 1. (After a pause)—The hon. and learned Gentleman did not deny it. It obviously followed that the words were pure surplusage, and he protested against the House being forced solemnly to register something not strictly true.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 242; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 56).

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, RtHn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, RtHon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHn Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Sir F. George
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord

Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt Hn.J.A.(Glasgow
Campbell,J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down,
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,RtHon.SirJosephC.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke,Rt.Hon.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Ferguson,RtHn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt Hon. George H.
Finlay,SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,SirRobertPenrose
Fitzroy, Hon. E. Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(Warwick,S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. G. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesbury
Grenfell, William Henry
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,ArthurHoward (Hanley
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford,W.)
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse,RtHnH.(Somers't,E
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (Midd.,Tottenham)
Hozier,Hon. JamesHenry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Kenyon, Hon.Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,RtHon.Col. W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Fredk. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,SirJoseph(Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,HnH.L.W,(Mile End.
Lawson, J. Grant (Yorks. N.R)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lees, Sir E. (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E.(Wigt'n)
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner,RtHon.SirFrederickG.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut.-Col.Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,AbelH.(Hertford,East)
Smith,RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley,RtHon.Lord(Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, RtHn. Sir Wm. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Welby,Sir Charles G.E.(Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley,H. (Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,SirW.H.(Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt Hon. C. B.Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—SIR Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Boland, John
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice,CaptEC(S.Andrw'sBghs
Ellis, J. Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone,Rt Hn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis, J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt.Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayter, Rt Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw.(Fermanagh,N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morley,RtHon.J.(Montrose)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor, (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, D. A. (Methyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, G. (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur W. (N. Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh.N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Lough and Major Seely.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said it had been made perfectly clear that this Resolution had been rushed forward by the Government, and an effort was being made to pass it through the House without that care which they might reasonably expect from the Government when they were setting up a precedent for the future. One thing was clear, and it was that the Resolution as it stood would allow the Government to introduce any number of additional Supplementary Estimates besides those already presented to the House. Was that the intention of the Government. Did they want power to introduce any Supplementary Estimates about which the House had heard nothing, and which might cover one of the most important points of policy at the present time? If that were so, it was the duty of the Opposition to oppose the Resolution to the utmost of their power. This proposal would give the Government power to deal with what might be unpopular questions to them, but questions which ought to be brought before the House at the proper time and in a proper way. His Amendment limited the operation of the Resolution to the Supplementary Estimates now before the House. If that was the intention of the Government then they could have no objection to the Amendment. He thought they ought to strongly protest against the continuous practice of bringing forward these Estimates. The fact that Supplementary Estimates were brought forward at all was due to want of foresight, miscalculations, and blunders in the policy of the Government. The most important were two gigantic blunders, one in regard to the expenses in the Whitaker Wright case, which was a miscalculation on the part of the Law Officers of the Crown; and the other was the compensation paid to Adolph Beck. The Amendment he proposed was a narrow one, and simply raised the question of what might be presented to the House, and he hoped the Government would accept it.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 2, to leave out the word 'any,' in order to insert the word 'the.'"—(*Mr. Dalziel.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'any' stand part of the Question."

SIR ROBERT FINLAY hoped the House would not accept this Amendment. It was not necessary to occupy time in discussing it. The hon. Gentleman had asked whether there would be any other Supplementary Estimates beyond those already before the House. He should say that it was almost inconceivable that there would be.

The Resolution stated that in order to comply with the law it was necessary that the Supplementary Estimates should be disposed of before March 31st.

MR. WHITLEY said he was surprised that the hon. and learned Gentleman could not accept the Amendment, for he had admitted that under the words as they stood it would be possible to introduce a new Supplementary Estimate for, say, £500,000 on the day when the guillotine was to fall, and to pass it without a single word of discussion. The statement of the Attorney-General justified the Amendment. It was a revelation to find that the Government went so far as to claim power to introduce fresh Estimates which were not now within the purview of the House, and to rush them through under the powers conferred by this guillotine Resolution. This was a weapon which was going to be used again, and the statement that it was not probable that a new Estimate would be produced this year did not remove the objection to the proposal.

MR. O'MARA (Kilkenny, S.) said that he was inclined to believe after hearing the Attorney-General that the Government had two or three more Supplementary Estimates up their sleeve, which they meant to spring on the House. He did not think the House should be placed in a position which made it possible for Supplementary Estimates to be brought in and passed without any discussion, but that was the position in which it would be placed by this Resolution. There was now only a fortnight to run of the current financial year, and the Government ought now to know exactly what Supplementary Estimates were required to cover the expenditure of the year.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said that there was a question of principle involved here which merited attention. The Attorney-General had said that if any further Supplementary Estimates were introduced they must be passed by 31st March. The object of the Amendment was to prevent any new Supplementary Estimates being introduced at all under the operation of the closure. The statement that it was almost inconceivable that the Government would introduce any fresh ones was a weak argument for refusing to accept the Amendment. In order to protest against a precedent being set which would govern future cases, he hoped the Amendment would be pressed.

Mr. CHURCHILL said this was a very extraordinary proposal. The Government must know what Supplementary Estimates they required. The First Lord of the Treasury might not know, but there (pointing to the Financial Secretary of the Treasury) was the Gentleman who knew. It was a remarkable thing that when they were discussing matters which came under the head of his Department he should be always absent. Why he was always absent he was at a loss to understand. Was it that he did not feel equal to giving a proper account of his Department? [Cries of "Oh,"] Well, what other reason could there be? The Prime Minister did not know what Estimates were to be brought forward. No one would expect him to know. He was engrossed in the labours of leading a great Party, and he presided over the deliberations of the National Defence Committee. Did the Prime Minister give a pledge that no new Supplementary Estimates would be introduced?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Then, would not the right hon. Gentleman accept the Amendment? Some hon. Members had doubts which the Attorney-General had been quite unable to remove. The learned Gentleman said it was "almost inconceivable" that any other Supplementary Estimate would be introduced. That left a very considerable door open. They were doing something now which a week ago they should have thought almost inconceivable.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 236; Noes, 181. (Division List No. 57.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hon.Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hon A.J.(Manch'r.)
Balfour, RtHnGerald W.(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T.(Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt.Hn.J.A.(Glasgow
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Rt. Hon.Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,Sir Fred Dixon
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt.Hon.Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt.Hn.Sir J.Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,Sir R B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,Philip S.(Warwick, S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir AugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E. (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, WalfordD.(Wednesbury
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey,Rt.Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marqof (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords.,N.
Helder, Augustus

Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford, W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse, Rt Hn H(Somers'tE.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant Yorks. NR
Lee, Arthur H. Hants. Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Hary Hananel
Martin, Richard, Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n)
Maxwell, W. J. H Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Frederick G
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ractliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir Harry S. Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, Rt. Hn. J Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G E. (Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M.(Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt E C S. A'dr'w's B'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander (L'n'rk, N.E
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.(Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Liecester
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred

Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David BrynmorSwansea
Jones, Leif, (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney' John J.
Morley, Rt. Hon. John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P.J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Dalziel and Mr. J. H. Whitley.

*Mr. SPEAKER called upon Mr. Black to move the Amendment standing n his name. To leave out "and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy."

Mr. CHURCHILL said he would make bold to move the Amendment on behalf of the hon. Member with the alteration that it read "and Vote 1 of the Estimates of the Navy. His reason for discriminating between Vote A and Vote 1 was that Vote A fixed the number of men in the Navy, and it was necessary for the Government to have that Vote. Vote 1 came under the agreement established by the hon. Member for Monmouth (Mr. McKenna), in regard to the Army, which had been pressed on the Leader of the House by the Leader of the Opposition. He would suggest that they should leave out Vote 1 and insert some other Navy Vote.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 3, to leave out the words 'and Vote 1.'"—(*Mr. Churchill.*)

Question proposed, "That the words 'and Vote 1' stand part of the Question."

Mr. DALZIEL said he hoped that the Government would give an ordinary courtesy to this Amendment. The suggestion was of some importance, because it was necessary for further information to be given before power was granted by the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he could not suppose that the hon. Gentleman's proposal was to be taken seriously. If this Amendment were to be accepted the public service would seriously suffer.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 251; Noes, 178. (Division List No. 58.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn. HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. HonSirH.

Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, Rt.HnGeraldW(Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt.Hn.SirMichaelHicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt.Hn.J.A.(Glasgow
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain, Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L.(Down, North)
Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies, SirHoratioD.(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt.Hon SirJoseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Dorington, Rt.Hon. Sir JohnE.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt.Hon. SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R B(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon.Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S.(Warwick,S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G.H.
Godson, Sir AugustusFrederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby
Gorst, Rt. Hon.SirJohn Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green, WalfordD.(Wednesbury
Greene,SirEW(B'ryS Edm'nds)
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thos. F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Rt.HnLordG(Midd'x
Mamilton, Marq. of(L'donderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,Arthur Howard(Hanley)
Heath, SirJames(StaffordsN.W
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse,RtHnH (Somers't,E
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside)
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, J. (Midd. Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon.James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Kenyon, Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,SirJoseph(Monm'th
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson,John Grant(Yorks.NR
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, RtHn.SirH.E(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H (Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn.Sir FrederickG.
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W.(Liverpool)
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, SirHarryS(Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East)
Smith, Rt.Hn.J.Parker(Lanark
Smith. Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley,Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M

Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby, de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley, (Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany William
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt. E. C. (S Andrw'sB'gh
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Lief (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr Churchill and Mr. Dalziel.

Mr. WHITLEY moved to leave out in line 5 all words after "disposed of" and to insert in their place, "not be interrupted under any Standing Order of the House." His object was to do away with the guillotine, and to substitute for it the ordinary methods employed by other Ministers who had experienced difficulty in getting through the business of the financial year, viz. :—by moving the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule. He ventured to assert that the First Lord of the Treasury had shown no case for the application of this new weapon, and he would suggest that they should try the old customs of the House before they trusted the First Lord of the Treasury or his successors with the weapon contained in the Motion. They were prepared to sacrifice their time and leisure in order to consider the business of the country, and if the Prime Minister refused that offer, it followed that the right hon. Gentleman's Resolution was designed with the utmost care to safeguard both the after-lunch siesta and the after-dinner siesta of his supporters. The House would agree that the suspension of the twelve o'clock rule would be amply sufficient to perform the work.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 5, to leave out from the word 'of,' to the end of the Question, in order to insert the words 'not be interrupted under any Standing Order of the House.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That the words to the word 'Five,' in line 6, stand part of the Question."

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the hon. Gentleman apparently desired to obtain a series of all-night sittings, and he had suggested, towards the end of his speech, that with a little tact the business could have been got through. He did not claim to have the powers of management attributed to him, but he was afraid that whatever powers of persuasion he possessed, however silvern might be his tongue, and even if he were a perfect Orpheus in bringing stocks and stones to follow his advice, he would fail to carry out the benevolent suggestion of the hon. Gentleman. The Amendment was recommended on the ground that it followed the old traditions of the House. It did not. The old tradition was that whenever there was a difficulty with public business the first thing to be sacrificed was the rights of private Members; and before the Government could suspend the twelve o'clock rule now, they must take away the Tuesday and Wednesday evenings and the Fridays. That would be a bad precedent which he did not mean to follow. Even if the twelve o'clock rule were suspended, he did not think the measure would be sufficient to enable the law to be complied with.

Mr. GEORGE WHITELEY (Yorkshire, W.R., Pudsey) said the Amendment opened up a very large question, in fact the whole question of the Supply rules as they appeared upon the Paper. He, therefore, desired to join in the chorus of condemnation which had proceeded from the Liberal side of the House, a chorus which, when these rules were made public, would be taken up through the whole length and breadth of the land. This new suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman seemed to him to be a complete illustration of the old proverb, "bad workmen have a tendency to complain of their tools." He was not surprised at the action of the right hon. Gentleman. It was typical of his whole character in the Leadership of the House. The House, no doubt, had got into a difficulty; but how had they got into it? Why was it necessary to resort to this drastic procedure to carry the Estimates and obtain supplies before the end of March? There was no reason. He had sat in the House for some years, and they had all recognised the necessity of all-night sittings when impasses of this kind had arisen in the business of the House. The right hon. Gentleman, in his opinion, was not warranted in moving such a Resolution at the present time. The right hon. Gentleman should have given considerable notice; he should have disclosed his intentions and taken the House into his confidence, and have seen whether the House was not willing to grant him supplies. He should have tried the effect of one or two all-night sittings before resorting to such procedure as this. The right hon. Gentleman was driving the House in this matter, and he did not think that the right hon. Gentleman or any other Leader of the House would find such methods effective. He hoped even now the right hon. Gentleman, on further consideration, would permit the House to revert to the old plan of all-night sittings.

*MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) said he also desired to support the Amendment. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that he was no fonder of all-night sittings than the right hon. Gentleman, but he thought it was very much better to have all-night sittings, if necessary, rather than to agree to this procedure. The House, no doubt, was in a difficulty, but the Prime Minister was responsible for it. If the advice given by his right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition had been followed, and a Select Committee of the House had been formed to consider their rules and procedure, they would have got through this business in a much better way than under the new rules, which every old Member cordially detested. He should most certainly support the Amendment.

MR. CHURCHILL readily acknowledged that the Prime Minister was watching the debate with an attention the more noticeable because exceptionally unusual. All who had followed the course of the discussion would admit that in consequence of the right hon. Gentleman's presence they had made more rapid progress than they otherwise would have done, and there was no reason at all why the Prime Minister should underrate the advantage of that tact and management of which he had spoken in unnecessarily modest terms. But the right hon. Gentleman was under a misapprehension in thinking that the supporters of the Amendment desired to take away the rights of private Members. Nothing was further from their wishes, or, he ventured to say, from the wishes of the Prime Minister himself, inasmuch as there were three fiscal Resolutions down, and the right hon. Gentleman would not wish to do anything to prevent their being discussed, especially as resort to the previous Question was always open to him. The proposal of his hon. friend was that the House should sit up, and while he would not prophesy that by half-a-dozen sittings until three or four o'clock they would dispose of the work before them, it was at all events a plan worth trying. They were not entitled to mutilate the procedure of the House of Commons for their own convenience. It might be that the present position of public business was so grave that exceptional and extraordinary measures were necessary, but they ought not to be ready on every occasion to get out of their difficulties by cutting a path through the rules of the House of Commons before they had tried the experiment of subjecting themselves to some little inconvenience and discomfort. The declaration of the Prime Minister as to the ability of his supporters to attend regularly through all-night sittings removed one of the principal objections to the Amendment, because it had been understood that the great difficulty was to get hon. Gentlemen opposite to attend. If the right hon. Gentleman had the confidence he professed, why did he not show it by adopting the Amendment? Many objections could be urged against all-night sittings, but the ancestors of present Members had not been afraid to subject themselves to considerable strain and exertion in the interests of public and free discussion. When Parliament was engaged in the prosecution of John Wilkes no fewer than twenty-three divisions were taken in one all-night sitting, and Mr. Burke, in his Memorials and Letters, made a special point of his pride at having sat up all night to oppose so iniquitous an Administration. It would be very uncomplimentary to attempt to draw any parallel between the Prime Minister and the Duke of Grafton, but it was the fact that the present Administration, like that of the Duke of Grafton, possessed a servile majority within the walls of Parliament, while destitute of the confidence of the country outside. He hoped the Amendment would be pressed to a division, because it would show that they would rather inflict upon the present temporary occupants of that House physical and mental exertion, and even suffering, than injure the great institution of which, for the time being, they were the humble and possibly unworthy Members.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said that while the last thing his hon. friend desired was to interfere with the rights of private Members on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, the Amendment, as worded, appeared to apply to those days, and he suggested that it should be altered so as to read, "shall not be interrupted under Standing Order 1." As to the recent all-night sittings, he had sat through them all, and his recollections of them were far from unpleasant. In many cases, the discussions up to three o'clock in the morning were by no means bad; they went into great detail, the criticism was of a high order, and most important matters were dealt with long after midnight. He was not in general an advocate of late sittings, but the Government were in a serious difficulty as to procedure, from which the proper way of escape was, not to ride roughshod through the Standing Orders of the House, but to put Members to a certain amount of discomfort so that the necessary business might be got through. Physical discomfort was much less serious than the curbing of free discussion, and instead of embarking on elaborate machinery, which was detrimental to the best interests of the House, the right hon. Gentleman should ask the House to submit to a certain amount of hard work, if necessary, at uncomfortable hours.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 271; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 59.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster Rt.Hn HughO.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, R.Hn.Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGerald W.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach Rt.Hn.Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell Rt.Hn.J.A.(Glasgow
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain Rt Hn.J.A (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies Sir Horatio D.(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dewar Sir T. R.(TowerHamlets
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir JosephC.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Dorington, Rt.Hn.Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. SirWilliam Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, R. Hn. SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, SirRobert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster Philip S.(Warwick, S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J.E.(Elgin &Nairn
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, WalfordD. (Wednesbury
Greene, SirEW(B'ryS.Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton Rt HnLordG.(Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq. of(L'donderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath ArthurHoward(Hanley)
Heath Sir James(Staffords.NW
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford,W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hobhouse RtHnH.(Somers't,E
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F. (Sheffield,Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson

Howard, John (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson John Grant (Yorks. N.R
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Fredk. N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn. Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, R. Hn. Sir Frederick G
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, William (Burnley)
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan David J. (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease Herbert Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alex.
Samuel, Sir Harry S (Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Rt. Hn J. Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent Col. Sir C. EH (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon-
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Austin, Sir John
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt E C (S. Andrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.

Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw.(Fermanagh,N.)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John(Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N.
O'Mara, James
Parrott, William
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas. Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T(Hudd'rsfi'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. J. H. Whitley and Mr. Eugene Wason.

MR. WHITLEY moved to omit "five" in line 6, and insert "seven." He said the object was to give two hours longer discussion before the guillotine fell. They made the offer to the right hon. Gentleman, and they were willing to sacrifice something out of their dinner hour if he would meet them in this respect.

Amendment proposed—

"In line 6, to leave out the word 'Five,' in order to insert the word 'Seven.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'Five' stand part of the Question."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he was grateful to the hon. Gentleman for his offer. He believed that the proposal to stop discussion at half-past five would be more pleasing to the majority of the House. He did not know that much would be gained by adopting the Amendment, and something would be lost.

MR. WHITLEY said he had another Amendment on the Paper which was rather dependent on this. The proposal of the right hon. Gentleman was to put the Civil Service Estimates in one block instead of in their various classes. Was the right hon. Gentleman prepared to accept the subsequent Amendment which provided for giving the House the opportunity of voting on the Civil Service Estimates in classes?

MR. CHURCHILL said it was perfectly obvious that the reason why the hon. Member who moved the Amendment and those who supported him wished to substitute "seven" for "five" was to take advantage of every occasion during the passage of the Resolution of showing their detestation of the methods which it embodied. They were bound to take all recognised occasions of showing their entire dissent from the manner in which they had been treated. The right hon. Gentleman had not condescended to accept a single Amendment; and they might as well be arguing with stocks and stones. Even when the right hon. Gentleman was asked to substitute the word "the" for "any," and although he admitted it made no difference, he refused to accept the Amendment. If such a small concession would not affect the general proposal, and would, at the same time, conciliate hon. Gentlemen, he did not see why the right hon. Gentleman should refuse to accept it. If the right hon. Gentleman wished to obtain his Resolution without putting a greater strain on his followers why did he not make some offer or proposal which would make the Resolution a little more satisfactory. Surely the right hon. Gentleman was not such a tyrant as to refuse harmless concessions which would make his proposal more acceptable, or at least less objectionable.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.) said he regarded the Amendment as being of a very reasonable character, and was surprised that the Prime Minister did not advance any better reason against it than brute force. The right hon. Gentleman stated that half-past five o'clock would be more acceptable to the majority of the House. That was not a good reason to advance. The minority had always been regarded as possessing certain rights; but, apparently, in the opinion of the Prime Minister, they had no rights at all. Not only had the Prime Minister not accepted the Amendment, but he had not condescended to give any reason for rejecting it. He himself had some admiration for the Prime Minister, though not for all his methods, and he should be glad if the right hon. Gentleman would give some reason for refusing to accept a reasonable Amendment such as that before the House. Action of that kind was calculated to throw reasonable and moderate men like himself into the hands of Gentlemen who sometimes proposed unreasonable Amendments. He objected to be ruled by a majority; majorities did not always possess the best arguments; and indeed it used to be said that all the virtues were with minorities. He did not proceed as far as that himself; but he desired to protest against the manner in which the right hon. Gentleman had opposed the Amendment.

MAJOR SEELY said that if common rumour were to be trusted the First Lord was prepared to make concessions in certain important particulars. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would say whether that was the case or not.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said the arrangement which he was willing to accept, and which he had reason to believe would not be disagreeable to hon. Gentlemen opposite, was to allow Vote A to stand in the Resolution, and substitute for Vote 1 Vote 7, which related to provisions and forage. He had already promised the House a full opportunity to discuss the general Army policy of the Government immediately after the commencement of the new financial year, and he proposed to take that general discussion on the Vote for the salary of the Secretary of State for War. That Vote would, therefore, be put down as the first Order on Monday, April 3rd, but it would be part of the honourable understanding which he was suggesting to the House that the Committee stage and the Report stage should be taken in the course of that week, so as to be able to proceed with the other business during the following week without feeling financially handicapped. Vote 7 related to stores, provisions, and forage, and on that it would be possible to raise the important question brought to the notice of the House by the Auditor-General's Report. He did not think it would be desirable to raise it at that early stage, and if it was the wish of the House he would undertake to give a more fitting opportunity for its discussion later on. It must be understood that the South African Report would not come up then, but if hon. Members desired it they could have more time by passing that Vote through without discussion. He would put it down for the second Order of the Day. It would be understood that the South African question would come up separately and at a later stage.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN said there was another proposal that the Government would give two days instead of one next week for getting the Speaker out of the Chair on the Army Estimates. He also asked whether on the week beginning April 3rd. Vote 1 would be put down on the Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR replied that if the House desired the discussion to extend over those four days he would provide for it, but it was a very exceptional demand to make on the time of the House, and he rather thought it would not be necessary to take the whole of those four days.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN asked whether it was to be understood that as the discussion on the South African stores question was not to be taken on Vote 7, it would not be deferred too long to the disappointment of the public interest in it.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR believed it was the general wish that the Public Accounts Committee should first deal with the matter. The Motion would be put down at once in order to give the earliest opportunity for its discussion.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN thought the right hon. Gentlemen must not understand that they accepted so broadly, as he put it, the idea that the matter of the South African stores was to be referred for further consideration to the Public Accounts Committee.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not make that a condition, but it would be convenient if it could be done.

MR. WHITLEY said it would be undesirable to divide on the Amendment as the First Lord had met the chief objection with regard to Vote 1, but he thought the usual interval for dinner might be availed of for considering more fully the right hon. Gentleman's suggestions.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned until this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL (GENERAL POWERS) BILL. (BY ORDER).

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*__CAPTAIN JESSEL__ (St. Pancras, S.) said he had put down the Motion which stood in his name upon the Paper as a protest against the manner in which the London County Council year after year introduced into Bills of this character most contentious matters. Nobody could object to the proposal to construct a bridge in Regent's Park, or to the application from the Borough of Battersea to build over ground now occupied by allotments, but when it came to a question of granting the London County Council power to alter two public Acts or to interfere with the Foods and Drugs Acts, which left the supervision of milk and so forth to the proper sanitary authority, and other contentious matters, it was in his opinion time that a stand was made. He further protested against the repeated attempts of the London County Council to introduce into a Bill of this character legislation which had been defeated either upstairs in Committee or in this House. It was sad to see the way in which ratepayers were obliged to pay on both sides, because on the one hand they were constituents of the opposing borough, and on the other of the London County Council. He ventured to think it would be to the advantage of the good government of London if the Government brought forward legislation which would prevent the introduction of contentious proposals into General Powers Bills, unless the London County Council had received the assent of a majority of three-quarters or two-thirds of the borough councils interested. He should have thought the County Council had quite enough to do. It had already taken upon itself the work of the late School Board.

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): No, no! That was imposed upon us by this House. You voted for it.

*Captain JESSEL said the attitude adopted by every candidate for the London County Council at the last election showed that the London County Council were not reluctant to take over the powers placed upon them by Parliament. The amount of money spent by the London County Council in promoting and opposing Bills since the creation of that distinguished body was simply enormous. The question of expenditure was most material to hon. Gentlemen when they had regard to the constant increase of the rates. It was only the other day that they were informed by a most distinguished authority on the London County Council that the rates for the coming year would be very largely increased.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): Ah! That is the voluntary schools.

*Captain JESSEL said no hon. Member would deny that the rates were constantly increasing. He should have thought it would have paid the London County Council to leave as much detail and power to the borough councils as possible instead of trying to deprive them of what powers they possessed, as they did on every occasion, or to supervise them and treat them like naughty children. He should have thought that that was the policy which would have commended itself to hon. Gentlemen opposite, who always advocated as wide an extension of powers as possible. By so doing they would educate the people up to their responsibilities. Complaint was made by the advocates of this Bill that the borough councils did not do their work properly. He should imagine that was the case all over the country, but it was not by coercion that they would be made to do their work properly; it would be by educating them up to their responsibilities in connection with a form of local government which had no parallel in any other nation of the world. He was sorry to have detained the House, but he had desired to indicate, and had indicated to the best of his ability, the reasons why he desired to enter a protest against the measures which the London County Council had introduced during the last few years in their General Powers Bills. He had only put his Motion on the Paper in order that he might have an opportunity of entering his protest, and having done so he did not propose to move his Motion.

Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time, and committed.

*Captain JESSEL said the Instruction which he had upon the Paper was that it should be an Instruction to the Committee to omit Clause 22, Part V. That clause provided

> "The Council may from time to time make representations to the Local Government Board as to the manner in which the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875 to 1899, are administered within the county, and may institute inquiries and make investigations for the purposes of this section."

The Sale of Foods and Drugs Act, which was passed in 1875, was the outcome of other Acts and of a Royal Commission which sat from 1869 to 1871. Up to the present time the London County Council had had no jurisdiction in the administration of these Acts. Originally Parliament laid it down that the execution of these Acts should be supervised by a Government Department and should be carried out by the local sanitary authority, and he might remind the House that in the strict sense of the word the London County Council was not the local sanitary authority. This principle had been enforced for many years, and, in 1888, when Parliament conferred on every other county council the power of administering the Food and Drugs Act, owing to the fact that there were other local authorities in London, an exception was made so far as the London County Council was concerned, and that power was not conferred upon them. In 1899, when the London Government Act was passed and the borough councils were created, no Amendment was proposed for the purpose of taking the power in this matter from the borough councils and giving it to the County Council, nor was advantage taken of the opportunity afforded in 1903, when Parliament subsequently empowered the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture to take such action as was necessary with a view to ascertaining whether local authorities were doing their duty and if necessary to enforce performance, to move such an amendment of the Law. Two governing authorities, the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture, were surely amply sufficient in this matter. The principal objection of the borough councils to the clause was that there would be two sets of officials going over the same ground, and considerable extra expense. There was no reason to suppose that inspectors would discharge their duties more efficiently simply because they were appointed by one authority rather than another. If the London County Council thought there was any slackness it was perfectly open to them to make representations to the Local Government Board or the Board of Agriculture. Nothing had been alleged against the present administration of the Acts; the clause would lead to duplication of inspection, clashing of authorities, and increased expense; the proposal was against the general trend of London legislation, that as far as possible local duties should be discharged by the borough councils and central duties by the County Council, and therefore he asked the House to instruct the Committee to omit Clause 22, Part V.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) seconded the Motion, first, because of the extra expense the clause would involve to London, secondly, because it would certainly lead to friction between the County Council and the borough councils. The clause contained two propositions. The first was that the Council should be empowered from time to time to make representations to the Local Government Board as to the manner in which the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, 1875–99, were administered within the county. That portion was altogether unnecessary, as the County Council already had the power. The second and more important proposition was that the Council should be enabled to institute inquiries and make investigations for the purposes of the section. Those were extraordinarily wide words, and could only mean that the County Council were to appoint inspectors and take samples. They were really to have the same power as borough councils in the matter and there could hardly fail to be friction, while the expense involved was almost unlimited. Already the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture appointed inspectors, so that with those appointed by the borough councils and the County Councils there would be four sets of inspectors doing more or less the same work. Because he considered the provision a wasteful one and regarded it as unnecessary that the County Council should be placed in this position of superiority over the borough councils he begged to second the Instruction to the Committee.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Clause 22, Part V."—(*Captain Jessel*).

Mr. JOHN BURNS explained that the most contentious and controversial clauses in the present Bill had been introduced at the instance of the borough councils themselves. Why the particular clause to which objection was being taken should cause friction between the County Council and the borough councils he was at a loss to understand. It did not disqualify the borough councils in any respect, nor did it take away from or add to the powers they already possessed. It simply enabled the County Council, as the central sanitary authority, to ascertain whether the twenty-nine borough councils were doing their duty. He put it to any impartially-minded legislator, who was not imbued with a fanatical hatred of the London County Council, whether the matter dealt with in the clause did not come within the purview of an authority such as the County Council. If London was sanitarily a single entity the power would be unnecessary, but in this matter of adulteration London was split up into twenty-nine disconnected areas, and in the interests of 6,000,000 people the County Council thought that if they found one of those authorities not doing its duty they should have power to report the fact to the Local Government Board. Was there a case for this clause? In Marylebone 1 per cent. of the samples of milk taken were adulterated; in Chelsea 2 per cent.; and in Hammersmith, 3 per cent. If all the borough councils were as virtuous as Marylebone, as excellent as Chelsea, and as anxious to do the right thing as Hammersmith, this particular clause would not be necessary, but they were not. The poorer the district, the greater was the adulteration of milk and food. In Stepney, 18 per cent. of the samples were adulterated——

*Captain JESSEL: And in Battersea, 13 per cent.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: Yes, and in St. Pancras 20, and in Hackney, 21.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON: That shows how well they take the samples.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he could not be expected to give the percentage of samples that were not taken. The bulk of the milk in Stepney and Hackney was bought by very poor people in small quantities chiefly for children, who ought to have good milk, whereas they got what was known as "sky-blue," He had recently been told by a physician at St. Thomas's Hospital that from 90 to 95 per cent. of children were at birth organically sound and physically healthy, but that they went to pieces between birth and six months of age because they could not get good milk and food. The result was that they did not develop physique to enable them at the age of twenty-one to enlist in the King's Company of the First Grenadier Guards. This matter had to be looked at from the point of view of the children, and the Report of the Physical Deterioration Committee was on the side of the supporters of this clause. In the rich districts where they had good milk the infantile death-rate was from 80 to 90 per 1,000, whereas in the poorer districts it ranged from 140 to 200 per 1,000, and the rates were highest where the samples of milk were most adulterated. Out of a thousand breast-fed infants in Liverpool only twenty died from diarrhœal complaints, while 300 died in the same period because they were fed on milk of the "sky-blue" description. A better illustration was afforded by St. Helens, where industrial conditions and the amenities of life were not ideal. St. Helens, with its sterilised milk depot, had a death-rate of eighty-seven per thousand of "milk-depot-fed" children, whilst the general death-rate was 167 per thousand. In the event of its being proved by an investigation of the London County Council that Hackney could do what Marylebone did, and that Stepney ought to do what Chelsea did, the Local Government Board on the report of the County Council would issue a circular to the defaulting or apathetic authority and compel the worst councils to act up to what the best councils now did. There was no desire to interfere with the borough councils; all the County Council asked was that as the chief sanitary authority they should be empowered to make an investigation, report the result to the Local Government Board, and leave it to the impartiality of an Imperial Department to consider the facts for themselves, and, if necessary, act upon them.

Mr. COHEN (Islington, E.) said that he at least could not fairly be accused of showing a fanatical opposition to the County Council. He had the privilege of serving for many years on that body, and on every possible occasion he had expressed his appreciation of the work they had discharged. He did not think, however, that the friends of the County Council were acting in the interests of that body when they attempted to invest it with the power of superintending the administration of councils which from their local knowledge were better able to look after certain aspects of local work. He did not think that the London County Council was pursuing its own interests in trying to acquire these powers. The duties of the Council ought to be administrative and not inquisitorial, and to grant such powers as these would only lead to a further increase in the rates. He hoped the House would pass this Instruction by an overwhelming majority, and prevent the London County Council acquiring powers which it was not better qualified to discharge than the borough councils, and which would only have the effect of causing hostility and friction between the London County Council and the borough councils.

Mr. BENN (Devonport) said he desired to say a few words by way of supplementing the excellent speech made by his hon. friend the Member for Battersea. His hon. friend had referred to the fanatical opposition to the London County Council which he found in the House of Commons. Coming back to the House after an absence of nine years, he was delighted to find the London County Council standing so well in the House of Commons. He wished to repudiate altogether any notion that there was any spirit of antagonism existing in London between the borough councils and the London County Council. He desired to deal with the point which had been raised by the hon. Member for Islington. He was pleased that the hon. Member remembered his useful association with the London County Council, for they had very much missed his services on that body. With regard to the impression that the London County Council was endeavouring to seek new powers, he wished to draw attention to the fact that they were merely trying to make the law uniform with regard to the food and the health of the people. Upon this question he claimed that they came to the House of Commons asking for these powers with the full authority of London. Their election addresses were filled with references relating to the food and health of the people. Up to the year 1871 there were seventeen Acts having to do with the public health of London, and they were codified under the Public Health Act of 1891. If the Act of 1891 were examined it would be found to contain precisely the powers they were now asking for, and all they desired was that those powers should be extended to the Food and Drugs Act, so that the London County Council, in default of the local authority, should have power to make representations to the Local Government Board. He desired to call the attention of the hon. and gallant Member who moved this Amendment to the evidence of a clergyman closely associated with the life of the poor—he referred to Canon Horsley. Canon Horsley had said that there ought to be some provision to secure that the Sale of Food and Drugs Act was carried out with uniformity, and he found that in some districts the Act was vigorously carried out, whilst in others it was not. What they were anxious to obtain was that there should be uniformity in the law. The Act of 1899, which set up the borough councils of London, gave them the very powers with regard to certain matter that they were now asking for, and they were given by a beneficent Conservative Government. For reasons of continuity he asked that these additional powers should be granted to the London County Council. They did not desire to deprive the borough councils of any powers, and the London County Council were only too anxious to relieve themselves of any duties which could be properly done in the locality; but there were things which could be done far more efficiently by a central body. It was of the greatest possible importance, in regard to the food of the people, that there should be some authority able to deal with London as a whole, and he hoped hon. Members opposite would assist them in obtaining powers which were necessary for the good administration of the city they were endeavouring to serve.

Mr. Fenn.

*MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) said that according to the arguments of the hon. Member for Battersea, wherever large numbers of samples were found deficient that implied bad administration in those districts. He confessed that he could not follow that argument. If a large number of the samples were taken and were discovered to be bad he thought that implied very great activity on the part of the sanitary authority. The hon. Member for Battersea had said that because 18 per cent. of the samples taken in Stepney were found to be deficient, that that meant bad administration of the Food and Drugs Acts

MR. JOHN BURNS said that his contention was that if the percentage of adulteration in Marylebone was 1 per cent. and in Stepney it was 18 per cent., then Stepney ought to try to bring its milk supply up to the standard of Marylebone.

*MAJOR EVANS GORDON asked by what process did the hon. Member propose that Stepney should bring their samples up to that standard? The first step to take was to discover that the milk supply was bad, and that was precisely what they were doing in the Borough of Stepney. All he wanted was that justice should be done to the Borough of Stepney in this matter. He did not know what the opinion of the Stepney Borough Council was upon this clause, but he believed that the medical officer and his staff were second to none in the activity they displayed in discovering cases of adulteration. They went very closely into this question during their inquiries upon the alien question, and they found that the adulteration of food and milk in Stepney was for the most part done by foreigners who undersold English tradesmen, and that the activity of the borough authorities was greater than in any other part of London. If it were true that the Stepney local authorities were doing all they could to discover these bad practices, he would like to ask the Member for Battersea what more could the London County Council do if these additional powers were granted by the House? He did not see that any representations which the London County Council could make to the Local Government Board, or any steps which they could take on their own behalf, could be better than a close and constant investigation and examination, followed up by prosecutions before the magistrates by the local authorities. What more could the London County Council do than was already being done? He heartily agreed with what had been said as to the importance of a pure milk supply as affecting the health of children, and he could assure the hon. Member for Battersea that there were numbers of dairymen in Stepney whose milk was as pure as was to be found in any part of the Metropolis. But he could not follow the argument that, because the prosecutions were numerous and the discoveries of adulteration numerous, the administration of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act in Stepney was slack. On the contrary, he was inclined to believe that the administration of the Act in Chelsea was much more likely to be slack, because the samples were only two or three per cent. bad, than they were in Hackney and other parts where high percentages of adulteration were known to exist. The percentage of bad samples meant nothing unless they knew the total number of samples taken. How many were taken in Chelsea, for example? The very facts used with such force by the hon. Member for Battersea were facts placed in his possession by the activity of the very authorities whom he condemned so strongly. He was in no way fanatically opposed to the London County Council, but in his opinion they already possessed powers to make representations to the Local Government Board.

MR. BENN said that the reason they asked for these powers was that if they spent any money now under the present law in carrying out these duties they would be surcharged by the auditor.

*MAJOR EVANS GORDON said he knew that at present the London County Council made representations under the present law upon all sorts of questions to all sorts of authorities, and he could not see any necessity for the further powers which were now being asked for. The hon. Member for Devonport said he was most desirous of avoiding any friction with the borough councils, but if the London County Council set up another set of inspectors to supervise those already in existence that course would be sure to cause friction, and for that reason he should vote for this Instruction.

MR. CROOKS appealed to the mover to withdraw the Instruction. It was true the Council had powers in many directions, powers of the character now sought, with the object of getting rid of adulteration in the same way as by constant inspection the use of false weights and measures had been stamped out. It was not nice to hear the stories of the poor as to the way they were constantly being imposed upon in regard to their food supply. He agreed that almost every sanitary staff in London at the present time was overworked, but the purity of the food of the people was of far more importance. Why should the London County Council be denied the right to take samples? Tradesmen travelled about with food which was unsound, selling it in those districts where it was known that the administration of the Act was slack. A case had been brought to his notice of a man selling in a very poor neighbourhood what were known as "block ornaments." They were offered for sale upon a travelling butcher's shop, and the salesman said to a poor woman, "Have that lot for 3d.?" She declined to purchase, and then they were offered at 2d., then for 1d., and as she still declined to purchase he said, "I am going to turn my back, please steal 'em." What right had that man to be offering such things for sale at all? He appealed to the House to help them to put a little more courage and stamina into the borough councils in this matter, and not least to strengthen the hands of the medical officers, so that, if the borough councils neglected their duty, they might appeal to the London County Council to put the Act in force.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said that it was very necessary that the poor people of London should be protected in regard to their food. The people of Battersea had taken steps in good time, and the result was that they had secured a pure milk supply, but other districts had not been so active, with the result that they had got a good many cases of adulteration.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 183; Noes, 177. (Division List No. 60.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex.F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenry Eden
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies, Sir HoratioD.(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt.Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fergusson, Rt.Hn. SirJ. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay Sir R.B.(Inverness B'ghs
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S.(Warwick.S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, SirEW.(B'ryS.Edm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley)
Heath, Sir James (Staffords.NW
Helder, Augustus
Henderson Sir A.(Stafford, W.)
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John(Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Sir Joseph(Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lee, Arthur H.(Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt.Hn.SirH.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Milvain, Thomas
Morgan, DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir Harry S.(Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)

Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir. C. EH. (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Ayes—Captain Jessel and Mr. Herbert Robertson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Bond, Edward
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt EC. (S. Andrw's B'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay Alexander (Lanark, NE
Fison, Frederick William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harwood, George
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lowther, Rt Hn J. W. (Cum. Penr.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morrell, George Herbert
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col. A C. E. (Taunton)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke, York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, WR.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)

Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersfield
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Benn and Mr. Crooks.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) moved the following further Instruction, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to substitute, in Part VI. of the Bill, the medical officer of a borough council for the medical officer of the County Council." He said he had never been one of those who attacked the London County Council, but he held that nothing but evil results would flow from dual control in matters relating to the milk supply in London. The medical officers of the borough councils were doing their best to cope with milk adulteration and milk-borne diseases, and if increased powers were to be given to any authorities it was to these medical officers that they should be given, rather than to a new staff of medical officers to be appointed by the London County Council. The latter could not possibly possess the local knowledge enjoyed by the medical officers of the borough councils, and local knowledge was of the first importance in tracking out the evil-doer when food adulteration and disease were concerned. If, for instance, the medical officer of Shoreditch desired to prevent the sale of milk in Battersea which had been condemned in Shoreditch, and further powers were necessary in order to secure that object, it would be far better that the Shoreditch medical officer should be entrusted with the duty of making representations direct to the Local Government Board rather than the roundabout proposal of this private Bill, which would necessitate the Shoreditch medical officer approaching the London County Council, and the London County Council the Local Government Board. In his judgment the subject of milk-borne diseases and the milk supply of London was far too grave to be dealt with by a private Bill such as that now before the House. The question was one which could only be adequately dealt with by the Government by a public Statute, and it was wiser to await the Report of the Royal Commission now examining the connection between human and bovine tuberculosis, than to attempt to tinker with a subject concerning the health of infant life by a stray clause in a private Bill. If this clause were adopted friction between the County Council and the borough council must result, and an unnecessary and increased charge cast upon the London ratepayers to provide a redundant staff, and no real remedy would be provided against the insufficient and bad supply of milk in London or against the diseases flowing therefrom.

SIR HENRY KIMBER (Wandsworth), in seconding the instruction, expressed the hope that it would be accepted by the hon. Members in charge of the Bill, who represented the London County Council. Part VI. of the Bill dealt with the question of milk supply. While he had no desire to raise any unreasonable objection to the Bill, he wished to say that by conferring the powers which were asked by the County Council they would throw on that body an enormous amount of work over a large area which it was less fitted to perform than the borough councils. The County Council would be obliged to have a staff permeating every one of the boroughs of the Metropolis and covering ground which was already covered by the medical officers of the local authorities, who were obviously better able to deal with these matters. The officials of the borough councils were more accessible to those who had a right to complain than the officials of the County Council. It should be an Instruction to the Committee, which would decide what could be conveniently administered by the London County Council.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to substitute, in Part VI. of the Bill, the medical officer of a borough council for the medical officer of the County Council."—*(Mr Claude Hay.)*

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that from the farmers' point of view, he objected to having two inspectors—one representing the County Council, and the other representing the borough council. Now, of the two, he preferred the inspector of the London County Council as the better authority. The important thing was that the milk should be brought to London pure and cheap.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that it was a matter of common knowledge that the London County Council would have been quite content that this Bill should have gone upstairs, and that a proper tribunal should have given a decision on full information presented to it on this contentious subject. It was quite clear that on the smallest matter in which the London County Council desired to promote the good government of London, the hon. Members for Peckham, Wandsworth, and St. Pancras, with, perhaps the hon. Gentlemen who represented the agricultural districts, opposed it. He did not believe that it was in the interest of agriculture that bad milk should be sold anywhere. On the contrary, he believed that the better the milk the more of it would be sold. The London County Council thought that it was not right that the chief sanitary authority in the Metropolis should be deprived of authority when the borough councils were not doing their duty. Supposing milk came from St. Albans to Finsbury and the medical officer there decided that it was tuberculous and infectious and would not allow it to be sold; and supposing milk from the same farm was sent to Battersea, and that the medical officer there did not care to condemn it, then they thought that the medical officer of the London County Council should have power to refuse permission for it to be sold in Battersea. That was a reasonable request, and Part VI. of the Bill ought at any rate to be passed. Neither the cowkeepers nor the dairymen had petitioned against the Bill. This part of the Bill was based on the model milk clauses passed by the Police and Sanitary Committee and sanctioned by the Local Government Board. On behalf of the London County Council he was sorry to say that he could not accept the Instruction, and he insisted that the London County Council should have concurrent powers with the borough councils to prohibit the introduction of infectious and tuberculous milk into any part of London.

*MR. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said that the hon. Member for Battersea had complained that this Instruction was moved on a microscopic detail. The reason for that was that the London County Council had gratuitously made an attempt on this microscopic detail, as it constantly did on larger questions, to assume functions which did not belong to it. This Bill was part of a system by which the London County Council was constantly setting up the theory that the borough councils were inferior and subject to it—[AN HON. MEMBER: No.]—whereas everyone who had watched the subject knew that they were separate bodies with separate functions, each responsible to the Local Government Board. The hon. Member for Devonport, who had gained great and well-merited distinction in the municipal arena of London, and whom he welcomed back to this House for everything except his political opinions, had deprecated what he called the hostility between the London County Council and the borough councils, but his contention was that it was just such attempts as these on the part of the London County Council to assume the functions of the borough councils which set up and sustained that hostility. The hon. Member for Battersea claimed that the representative principle was more fully carried out in the County Council than in the borough councils.

MR. JOHN BURNS said that what he had stated was that there were twenty-nine borough councils, and that something was needed to protect London as a whole, because some of these twenty-nine borough councils did not, or would not, do their duty.

MR. BURDETT-COUTTS said he was in the recollection of the House as to what the hon. Member had said about the representative principles, and he would put it to the House whether the borough councils were not a more effective authority to deal with questions of this sort than the London County Council. He would put this particular case in a concrete form. Supposing these powers were granted to the County Council, and the control or regulation of the milk supply was in its hands. If a particular district or borough were dissatisfied with the quality of its milk they could turn out their individual county councillor; but that would not affect the policy of the County Council, or improve their administration of the regulations. On the other hand, if the control was left to the borough council, and the borough was dissatisfied, they could turn out the whole borough council and carry the wishes of the electorate into effect. That was the true representative principle. The hon. Member considered that there was every virtue in centralisation, and that was one of the great grounds on which he had advanced the claims of the London County Council. But he contended that the borough councils were the proper authorities to deal with all those matters of local government to which reference had been made, and which had nothing to do with politics.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 193 ; Noes, 179. (Division List No. 61).

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A.(Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies, Sir Horatio D.(Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt Hn. Sir John E
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B.(Invern'ss B'ghs)
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. E. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S.(Warwick, S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir A. Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E.(Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Goschen, Hon. G. Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W(B'ry S Edm'nds
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marq. of(L'nd'nderry
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords, N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford, W
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hon. J. Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir R. Claverhouse
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hon. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt Hn J W(Cum. Penr.
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn. Sir H. E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Milvain, Thomas
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir Harry S.(Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas

Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Claude Hay and Sir Henry Kimber.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bell, Richard
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Butcher, John George
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt E C (S. Andr'ws B'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fisher, William Hayes
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury
Grey, Rt Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir Wm. Henry
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson, E.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
Manners, Lord Cecil
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.
Morpeth, Viscount
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, D. Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)

White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters(N.Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J W.(Worcestershire, N.
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Benn and Mr. Crooks.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) moved:—"That it be an Instruction to the Committee to omit Part XV." He said the clause which he desired to omit empowered the local authorities to supply wires, fittings, and apparatus to the premises of their consumers, and to borrow money for the purpose. The object of that clause was to introduce municipal trading and to interfere with the legitimate work of private shopkeepers, contractors, and engineers.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Part XV."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

MR. JOHN BURNS said the County Council was acting in this matter on behalf of the borough councils. There were in London thirteen electric lighting companies who had power to supply electric light and to sell to the consumers the necessary fittings and appliances. Parliament had given to sixteen borough councils the power to supply electric light in London, but they could not do so effectively or cheaply if the fittings and appliances had to be bought from middlemen who frequently made large profits out of the consumers. The borough councils, without exception, had asked the County Council to apply for powers in their Bill to enable them to sell fittings to consumers who took their electric light. It was ridiculous to call that a glaring instance of municipal trading. Let Members be logical and consistent. Why should they refuse this power to the borough councils and at the same time allow the South Metropolitan Gas Company to supply burners and cooking stoves?

SIR HENRY KIMBER said the proposal was one which might be very reasonably objected to. The London County Council was doing very good work; but in his opinion power should not be given to local authorities to enter into competition with traders by means of capital provided by the ratepayers.

MR. BENN said that the London County Council did not want to sell the fittings themselves; they were merely voicing the opinion of the borough councils. At present, two borough councils—Woolwich and Marylebone—possessed this power, and the other borough councils desired to have it in one Act instead of having to promote separate Acts.

*MAJOR EVANS GORDON said he was convinced that it was reasonable those powers should be given to the borough councils, and he should vote against the Instruction.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 190; Noes, 196. (Division List No. 62.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn. Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.)
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beaumont, Wentworth C.B.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain, Percy A.

Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim,S.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir Horatio D.(Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B.(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S.(Warwick,S.W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Grey, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W(B'ry S Edm'nds
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'derry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Howard, John(Kent, Fav'rsham
Hozier, Hon, James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Joicey, Sir James
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. George T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph(Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant(Yorks N.R.
Lee, Arthur H (Hants., Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, Rt Hn J W (Cum. Penr.
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E.(Wigt'n)
Maxwell, W.J.H (Dumfriesshire
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott(Hants.)
Morgan, David J.(Walthamstow
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis Romford
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord(Lancs.)
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E H(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Frederick Smith.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herbert Henry
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Black, Alexander William
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Denny, Colonel
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of

Ellice,CaptEC(S Andr'ws B'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark,NE
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,RtHn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Green,WalfordD.(Wednesbury
Grey, Rt.Hon Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, JKeir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayter, Rt.Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heaton, John Henniker
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hoult, Joseph
Jacoby, James Alfred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Johnson, John
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(MileEnd)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland (Barratt, Francis
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdona, John Cumming
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Crae, George
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Renwick, George
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, SirHarryS.(Limehouse
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely,Maj.J.E B.(Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Welby, Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(NDorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J W.(Worcest'rshire,N.
Wood, James
Woodhouse,SirJ T.(Huddersf'd
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Major Evans-Gordon and
Mr. Crooks.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) rose on behalf of the Central Chamber of Agriculture to move as an instruction to the Committee to omit Clause 34. He said they had successfully opposed it already in the Borough of Ealing. They were perfectly ready to assent to legislation, and all they asked was that they might know exactly their position, and the conditions under which they might supply milk. The London County Council already had very great powers in the matter of regulations relating to dairymen, water supply, dairies, cow sheds, and disease. They also had ample powers under the Public Health (London) Act, 1891, to inspect dairies and to prohibit milk coming into London, and yet they wanted still greater powers. It was not right to do by piecemeal legislation and by means of a private Bill what ought to be done by a public Bill. Either the London County Council should have the power or the borough councils should have it, but it was not right that the farmers should be brought into conflict with two authorities. Another point was that the medical officers of health had passed various dairies and cow sheds, and farmers had already been put to heavy expenditure. In spite of that fact, the London County Council would have power to over-ride hem and to say that unless other things were done the farmers would have their milk stopped. They were perfectly ready to be supervised by one authority, but it was not fair to have two authorities to deal with and to have to meet conflicting ideas and interests. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Clause 34."—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

*MR. CLAUDE HAY seconded the Instruction. He objected to the London County Council having power to interfere with the work of other county councils in their own area. There was no justification for the claim of the London County Council to be able to go, for instance, into the county of Cornwall and to interfere with the administration of the health laws in that county by the Cornwall County Council. What would be said by the London County Council if the medical officers of the County Council of Hertfordshire were to be allowed to interfere with the administration of the health laws in London by the medical officers of the London County Council? The whole subject was one of the first importance to the health of the children of London, and by reason of its gravity should not be trifled with by private Bill legislation, but on the responsibility of the Government of the day. A measure should be brought forward which would cope with the milk supply, not only of London, but of the whole country, and this when the scientific Commission now sitting had made its recommendations.

MR. JOHN BURNS pointed out that it was only asked for the London County Council to have the power, in the event of milk being sent from a tuberculous district, to take its proper place in dealing with it. A farmer in Hertfordshire might send milk to Kensington. Kensington might refuse to have it and send it on to Clapham, which in turn might refuse to have it. The milk might be sent to Stepney, and from thence to St. Pancras. It was only right that St. Pancras should have the right to say that infectious milk should not be sent into its district. It might be urged that this matter could be left to the county council of the district, but they were more or less interested, and would take a biassed view. They would not be quite so vigilant as an outside authority. The consumer in London held a different view, and surely the 5,000,000 there had a right to be protected against a diseased cow. If it were contended that the county councils were a sufficient safeguard he would point out that out of sixty-two county councils only thirty-five had appointed medical officers for this purpose, and only fifteen of the number gave the whole of their time to the work. Some councils had no medical officer at all, and he thought that for the effective protection of the consumer the London County Council ought to have the power to intervene. He appealed to the agricultural Members of the House to popularise the sale of milk in London. If they gave colour to a suggestion that bad milk could be sent into London they would decrease the consumption and there act against their own interests.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) agreed that it was quite right that the 5,000,000 people in London should be protected against bad milk, but, on the other hand, the farmers wanted to be protected against the London County Council which, under this Bill, would be able to go into the remotest corners of the country and override the rules of the local councils. Each locality must provide its own regulations, and they did not want to be overridden by the London County Council.

MR. DISRAELI (Cheshire, Altrincham) thought that it would be a most extraordinary thing to set up the sanitary authority of London as a sanitary authority for a district 100 miles from the Metropolis. They in Buckinghamshire would not tolerate such a proposal, and he should vote against it.

*MR. LLEWELLYN (Somersetshire, N.) also supported the Instruction. They already had suitable regulations under the Contagious Diseases Notification Act in force in the country, and on behalf of agriculturists he submitted that the proposal of the Bill was absolutely unjust and altogether unnecessary.

MR. JOHN BURNS did not wish to unduly trouble the House, and would accept the Instruction.

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to omit Clause 34.—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill, in Clause 35, Sub-clause (4), line 18, after the word 'man,' to insert the words 'provided that such a condition is due to the wilful neglect of.'"—(*Mr. Gardner.*)

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill, in Clause 35, Sub-clause 4, line 18, after the word "man," to insert the words "provided that such a condition is due to the wilful neglect of."—(*Mr. Gardner.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY, ETC.).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [16th March] to Question [15th March], "That, in order to comply with the Law, the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned:—

"At half-past Five of the clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes.

"As soon as the Resolutions so disposed of are reported to the House, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, and the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of any Resolutions proposed in that Committee.

"At Ten of the clock on the 23rd day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolution then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the House doth agree with the Committee in all Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and shall then put a like Question on the Resolution reported with respect to the Supplementary Estimates for the Army, and on the Resolutions reported with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy.

"On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported.

"And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put any Question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill.

"And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:

At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

"At Eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

"Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Which Amendment was—

"In line 6, to leave out the word 'Five,' and insert the word 'Seven.'"—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question again proposed, "That the word 'Five' stand part of the Question."

Question put, and agreed to.

MAJOR SEELY moved to leave out Vote 1, in order that no misunderstanding should exist as to Vote 7 for forage provisions and stores being substituted, and as to the Prime Minister's undertaking that the whole week from April 3rd would be given to discuss Vote 1. If it were not in order to discuss the matter of South African stores on that Vote the House would lose an opportunity of discussing it as a non-contentious Vote, but he understood that they were to have some other day than in the week beginning on April 3rd. He understood that they were to discuss Vote 7 in the ordinary way and that the whole week from April 3rd would be given to the discussion of Vote 1, when they could raise the vital question concerning the Government Army policy. He believed that was in accordance with the wishes of hon. Members on both sides of the House. He moved the Amendment in order to fully understand the terms which the Prime Minister explained to the House before the adjournment. He moved to omit the following words:—

"And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 1 of those Estimates, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

"At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

"At eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army Estimates."

Amendment proposed.

"In line 32, to leave out lines 32 to 44, inclusive."—(*Major Seely.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out to the words 'Vote 1,' in line 33, stand part of the Question."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said he had no correction to make on his previous statement. The hon. Member had suggested that he had given a pledge that the discussion on Vote 1 should occupy the whole of the week following April 3rd. He was not sure the House would desire the whole of that time, but he would undertake that nothing else but Army Estimates should be put down on Government days until the Vote was disposed of, unless the discussion should be exhausted.

MR. ASQUITH understood that instead of Vote A and Vote 1 they would have Vote A and Vote 7. It was very desirable that the position should be clearly stated. He understood that Vote 1 would be the first order on April 3rd, and that the whole of the Government time during that week would be given to its discussion if necessary.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, but the Vote shall be finished.

MR. ASQUITH said he understood that the second part of the undertaking was that the Government would give a special day to discuss the South African contracts and the Comptroller and Auditor-General's Report upon them. Further, that would be an early day; before Easter, if possible.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he did not quarrel with that statement, but he thought the House would probably desire to take the advice of the Public Accounts Committee as to the time they would discuss that matter. As soon as the House had full information, which the Opposition would desire, he was ready to discuss it.

Mr. ASQUITH: When we think the state of information is such as to allow a discussion the Prime Minister will be prepared to give a day?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Within a day or two.

Mr. DALZIEL asked if the extra days would be regarded as allotted days.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said the discussion on Vote A and Vote 1 would be allotted days.

Mr. DALZIEL said that two of the days, which were only half days, could not be allotted days.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that only full days would be regarded as allotted days. It was not intended to give more time out of the session for the discussion of Supply.

Mr. DALZIEL said that in that case he did not see that they were getting anything at all. Supply was always put down in accordance with the wishes of the Opposition; and if the Opposition asked for five days to discuss the Army they would get it.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that if everything were to be squeezed out in favour of one Estimate it would be another matter.

Mr. DALZIEL said that, personally, he should object to so much time being given to the Army. He did not think the House desired it. They had, however, a promise from the right hon. Gentleman that the two half days would not be counted as allotted days.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) asked whether they were to wait until then for the names of the defaulting contractors.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that his right hon. friend informed him that the names were already given.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.) said the Question on the subject was not reached in the Questions, but the Answer would appear in the Votes on the morrow.

Mr. CHURCHILL said that he thought in the circumstances the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife would be well advised to close with the bargain, especially as the minority were deprived of the assistance of the cohort from Ireland who were celebrating their national festival elsewhere. He thought they had succeeded in making a bargain with the Government; but although the compromise had been accepted it could not be said in any way to remove the rooted objection the minority had to the manner in which they had been treated. He admitted that the right hon. Gentleman had endeavoured to show a conciliatory spirit, and had made a real and substantial concession; but that did not alter the deep injury inflicted on the procedure of the House of Commons by the Resolution.

Mr. WHITLEY asked whether the Secretary of State's statement on money matters would be made on the Motion to get Mr. Speaker out of the Chair, or on Vote A under the guillotine, or on Vote 1.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said that, subject to modification, the present intention of his right hon. friend was to make the statement on Vote A.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question amended, in line 33, by leaving out "1" and inserting "7";

in line 40, by leaving out "1" and inserting "7"; and in line 44, by leaving out "1" and inserting "7."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)

Main Question, put, as amended.

The House divided:—Ayes, 208; Noes, 129. (Division List No. 63.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn, Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundett, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. Sir John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Sir E W (B'rys Edm'nds)
Grenfell, William Henry
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords N W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks N. R
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis Wiliam
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfriesshire
Milvain, Thomas
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount

Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H (Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt E. C (S Andrw's B'ghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harwood, George
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Mara, James
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, A. Walters (N. Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rsf'd

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

Ordered, That, in order to comply with the Law, the proceedings necessary to dispose of any Supplementary Estimates and Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy, and of the Ways and Means Resolutions consequential thereon, shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the manner hereinafter mentioned:

At half-past Five of the clock on the 21st day of March next, the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Vote then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the total amount of the outstanding Votes for the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates be granted for the services defined in those Estimates, and shall also forthwith put every other Question necessary to dispose of those Votes.

As soon as the Resolutions so disposed of are reported to the House, the House shall forthwith resolve itself into Committee of Ways and Means, and the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of any Resolutions proposed in that Committee.

At Ten of the clock on the 23rd day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolution then under consideration, and shall then forthwith put the Question that the House doth agree with the Committee in all Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates, and shall then put a like Question on the Resolution reported with respect to the Supplementary Estimates for the Army, and on the Resolutions reported with respect to Vote A and Vote 1 of the Estimates for the Navy.

On the consideration of the Report from the Committee of Ways and Means, the Speaker shall forthwith put the Question that the House do agree with the Committee in the Resolutions reported.

And that at half-past Eleven of the clock on the 27th day of March next, the Speaker shall forthwith put any Question necessary to dispose of the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill; and at Seven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Third Reading of that Bill.

And that the proceedings on going into Supply on the Army Estimates, and in Committee, and on Report, of Vote A and Vote 7 of those Estimates shall, if not previously disposed of, be brought to a conclusion in the following manner:

At half-past Six of the clock on the 28th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Motion that the Speaker leave the Chair on going into Supply on the Army Estimates.

At half-past Six of the clock on the 29th day of March next the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 7 of the Army Estimates in Committee.

At Eleven of the clock on the 30th day of March next the Speaker shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of the Report of the Resolutions with respect to Vote A and Vote 7 of the Army Estimates.

Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded the consideration of the Business of Supply at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence shall not be anticipated by a Motion for Adjournment, and no dilatory Motion shall be received on proceedings on that Business, and the Business shall not be interrupted under any Standing Order.

Until the Business to which this Order relates is concluded no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken at any Sitting at which Government Business has precedence.

SMALL ARMS DEPARTMENT (ENFIELD AND SPARKBROOK).

Address for Return showing:—

"(1) The average number of persons employed at the Small Arms Department at Enfield, and the Manufacturing Department at Sparkbrook, respectively, for each of the last ten years, 1895 to 1904, inclusive, showing, separately, the number of the administrative and clerical staff and of the artisans and labourers.

"(2) The rate of wages paid to the principal classes of workmen at the two Departments above-named, respectively.

"(3) The rates of sick pay, pension allowance, or bonus, at the two Departments, respectively, if they differ in any way.

"(4) The price of coal at the two factories respectively, giving, if possible, the average price per ton per annum for the same quality for the last five years.

"(5) The number of small arms, whether rifles or pistols, of any kind turned out in each year by the two factories respectively.

"(6) The amount expended during the years 1902–3 and 1903–4 at Sparkbrook, in the Manufacturing Department, on new buildings, machinery, engines, and boilers.

"(7) The same for the Small Arms Department at Enfield.

"(8) The cost of the same class of rifle made during the last ten years at Enfield and Sparkbrook, respectively.

"(9) The amount of fixed charges, including rent, rates and taxes, contributions to or provision for religious worship and secular instruction, depreciation on buildings and machinery, interest on capital, etc., debited to the Small Arms Department at Enfield and to the Manufacturing Department at Sparkwood, respectively, for each of the last five years."—(*Mr. J. Chamberlain.*)

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he desired to make a personal statement on the granting of this Return. In consequence of the appeal made by Mr. Speaker a few nights ago, he did not pursue his objection to this Return any further, but he wished to express his regret that the Government had not seen their way to grant the Return for which he asked, in regard to the Small Arms Department (Sparkbrook) and which, in his opinion, was necessary for a complete statement on the matter. He did not think they ought to grant one Return without presenting the House with the whole information on the matter.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Copy ordered, "of Statement showing the aggregate amount of the liabilities of the Government to depositors in Post Office Savings Banks on the 31st day of December, 1903, and the nature and amount of the securities held by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt to meet those liabilities at that date."—(*Mr. Victor Cavendish.*)

AGRICULTURAL RATES ACT, 1896 (GRANTS TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES).

Return ordered, "showing the amount payable to each of the local authorities in England and Wales who receive a share of the Annual Grant under the Agricultural Rates Act, 1896."—(*Mr. Jesse Collings.*)

***The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the TREASURY** (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington), in moving the adjournment of the House, said it might be for the convenience of hon. Members if he stated that the Vote on Account would be taken as the First Order on Monday. The first Vote would be that for the Irish Land Commission, the second that for the Colonial Office, and the third that for the Local Government Board. He hoped that would suit the convenience of the House.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said the last Report they had of the Land Commission was for 1903, and they had not yet received the Report of the Estates Commissioners for the past eighteen months. How did the right hon. Gentleman expect them to discuss the proceedings of the Land Commission if the Government persistently refused to give information to the House?

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he sympathised with the hon. Gentleman in what he said as to the necessity of accelerating the publication of the Report, but he felt bound to say that the Vote was put down for Monday after consultation with him, and, indeed, at his request.

Adjourned at twenty minutes before One o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 17th March, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

City of London Electric Lighting Company Bill [H.L.]; East London and Lower Thames Electric Power Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee to consolidate the Bills into one Bill.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM.

Report by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, for the year 1904.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

General Reports for the year 1904, by the Chief Inspectors of the Western Division of Scotland; the Southern Division of Scotland.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh language. Vol. I., Part III., and Vol. II., Part III.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend and extend the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900. Was presented by the Lord Belper; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Tuesday the 4th of April next. (No. 31.)

Lord **BELPER**: My Lords, the Bill that I have just presented is rather a complicated one, and I therefore ask leave to lay on the Table a Paper showing how the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1897 and 1900, will read as amended by this Bill. The Paper will no doubt be of great assistance to noble Lords in examining the Bill.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS, 1897 AND 1900.

Paper showing how the said Acts will read as amended by the Workmen's Compensation Bill [H.L.] (presented to the House this day). Ordered to be laid before the House.—(*The Lord Belper.*)

DECK-LOADS ON BRITISH SHIPS.

Lord **MUSKERRY**: My Lords, I rise to call attention to the continued practice of British ships carrying deck-loads across the Atlantic in winter time, and to ask whether all hope of the safety of the steamers "Nutfield" and "Freshfield" has now been abandoned; whether these steamers carried deck-loads of timber, and, if so, what was the extent of the deck-load in each case; whether it is a fact that owing to her dangerous condition the "Freshfield" was compelled to put in to a port in America to discharge part of her deck cargo before continuing her voyage; and whether it is intended by the Board of Trade to order a formal investigation into the condition of both steamers when leaving port.

Last session I introduced a Bill to your Lordships, the object of which was to prohibit the carriage of deck-loads of timber across the Atlantic in the winter-time, and I drew attention to the serious disasters and loss of life which have occurred in consequence of carrying these deck-loads. I dealt with the extraordinary anomaly that the Merchant Shipping Act prevents these deck-loads being carried in the winter-time to any port in the United Kingdom. I therefore, I think, justifiably contended that if, as the law assumes, it is dangerous to carry these deck-loads to the United Kingdom, it must, as a matter of course, be equally dangerous to carry them to the Continent. To show the absurdity of the law as it stands I will read two extracts from a letter I received yesterday from the Merchant Service Guild. The secretary writes—

> "On March 2nd last, at Glasgow, the captain of the steamer 'Tritonia' was fined £2 for carrying a log of timber measuring 160 cubic feet on deck. Had this man made a voyage to the Continent instead of Glasgow, the law would have allowed him to carry six or seven hundred tons on deck."

In fact, my Lords, the law places no limit on what he might carry to the

Continent, although declaring it to be dangerous to carry deck-loads in winter-time to the United Kingdom. Again, the secretary to the Merchant Service Guild writes—

> "We understand that another vessel laden with a deck cargo of timber is hopelessly overdue. This is the 'Mars,' from Pensacola to the Continent, but as she is a German vessel the Board of Trade can do nothing. This is one more illustration of the possible effect of a vessel carrying a deck-load in the winter-time."

The Merchant Shipping Act is evaded by these ships, which carry the deck cargoes to the Continent in the winter, and then come to the United Kingdom to discharge the remainder of the cargo. At the conclusion of the debate last year I appealed to your Lordships to pass my Bill, drawing attention to the fact that the winter was coming on, and that whilst the Legislature was hesitating further unjustifiable sacrifice of life was likely to take place. In a House of thirty-nine, I was honoured by the support of thirteen noble Lords, which encourages me to think that I adduced strong substantiation of my case. I had, of course, to deal with the stereotyped argument that similar restrictions were not placed on foreign ships; but I again insist that if foreign ships are permitted to sail in an unseaworthy condition that is absolutely no reason for allowing British ships to do likewise.

The winter-time is now passing, and, so far as I understand, two steamers, the "Nutfield" and the "Freshfield," carrying cargoes of timber from the United States to the Continent are missing with all hands. I do not desire to anticipate matters, or to make charges unless I have ample foundation. I trust your Lordships will agree with me that we should have full information as to the seaworthiness, or otherwise, of these steamers when they left port, and that the Board of Trade should order a strict investigation in order to ascertain, if possible, the source whence these catastrophes arose. I should add, in conclusion, that the Merchant Service Guild, which represents over a third of the British captains and officers in the merchant service, have urged me to assist them in so amending the law as to prohibit a practice which the law itself condemns but does not in all cases forbid. It seems to me that the gentlemen who command and officer vessels carrying deck cargoes of timber are best able to appreciate the dangers and risks they are wrongfully exposed to in following their employment, and that their opinions, instead of being ignored as at present, should receive due and careful consideration.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I took part in the discussion last year upon the Bill which was introduced by the noble Lord who has just sat down, and upon that occasion I voted against his Bill. I did so very reluctantly, as I stated to the House, but I was desirous of affording a good opportunity to His Majesty's Government, if possible, to enter into arrangements with foreign countries which would have enabled a uniform system in regard to this matter of deck-loads to be introduced. I rise now for the purpose of asking whether any communications with foreign countries have taken place since that period, and, if so, with what result. I am bound to say that though I was prepared last year to wait for the outcome of those communications, I might take a different view if those negotiations have had no result whatever.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (The Marquess of SALISBURY): My Lords, I do not think that His Majesty's Government have any reason to complain of the interest taken in this question. Undoubtedly any circumstances affecting the lives of those engaged in our mercantile marine are of the highest interest to Parliament, but I think I shall be able to show that the evil to which the noble Lord has called attention, though a real one, has been to some extent exaggerated. In answer to the Question on the Paper, I have to say that the steamship "Nutfield" left Norfolk, Virginia, on December 12th, and has now been posted at Lloyd's in the ordinary course of their business as a vessel long overdue. The "Freshfield" has not yet been posted. It passed Cape Henry on February 7th, and has not since been heard of. No doubt, both of these vessels, although I have not got it as yet on absolute authority, had deck cargoes, and, as is mentioned in the Question, the "Freshfield" is reported as having discharged part of her cargo in an

American port. Although both these vessels have not been posted at Lloyd's, the Board of Trade have resolved that an inquiry is due, and it has been ordered in both cases.

It was said in the debate last year that we were unable to extend the law relating to these deck cargoes in the case of British vessels entering British ports to the case of British vessels trading between foreign ports because of the competition to which they are exposed, but I do not desire to lay too much stress on that point. The lives of British subjects are so important that it is not proper to dwell upon that point too much. At the same time, it is fair to say that there is an obvious objection to placing unnecessary restrictions upon British vessels when they are actually in competition with foreign vessels. The question is whether these restrictions which the noble Lord urges us to impose are necessary or not. No one in your Lordships' House knows better than the noble Lord who has called attention to this question that by the law of England no British ship is allowed to go to sea in an unseaworthy condition; but one of the most difficult things in the world to prove is whether a ship is in an unseaworthy condition or not.

Now, what is the extent of this evil? The shipping trade in timber is a very large and growing trade. Many hundreds of British ships are engaged in it. How many vessels have been lost? The noble Lord dealt with steamers, and I think he was quite right in so doing, because the sailing-vessel trade is a diminishing one. There are fewer sailing vessels engaged in the timber trade every year, and it will eventually be nothing but a steamer trade. There has not been more than one steamer a year lost of those vessels in the timber trade passing between foreign ports except in the year 1899. Last year one vessel was lost, and this year there has been one—two altogether—involving the loss of about twenty-five lives in each case. It is impossible to overlook the fact that the trade in which these sailors are engaged is a dangerous one. But the loss of one steamer in each year, and twenty-five lives in each case, does not appear to me to be a very large or formidable evil.

The question is whether Parliament is called upon to legislate on this subject so as to prevent the loss of twenty-five lives. No one can have a doubt that if this could be done reasonably the remedy would be undertaken; but when dealing with so small an evil the question of competition has, to some extent, to be considered. In addition to that feature there is the practical side of the subject. How are we to control British ships trading between foreign ports? We have no technical officials on the spot; there are no Board of Trade officers in foreign ports; and therefore the difficulty of putting in force the restrictions which exist in the case of ships trading with the United Kingdom against those ships wholly engaged in foreign trade is almost insurmountable. I believe that on the whole shipowners are an admirable class of men who carry out their work with a due regard to the sanctity of human life. But there are, of course, in every trade some members who do not come up to the high standard of the vast majority. There are, no doubt, in the shipping trade one or two such owners; and it is earnestly to be hoped that the only real remedy will be applied—namely, that the shipowners themselves will take care that those who are employed by them are not exposed to unnecessary risk, and that the influence of criticism may have the effect of bringing up the exceptions to the high standard of the general body. I trust that the debates in your Lordships' House will have an effect on those who are not of so high a standard as the general body of shipowners, and in that way apply a real and final remedy for the evil to which my noble friend has called attention.

In answer to the noble Marquess, I have to say that no communication has taken place between the Foreign Office and foreign countries on this subject lately. There were, however, as the noble Marquess well knows, inquiries at a former period. We have not found that on questions of this kind foreign countries are very willing to second the efforts of the British authorities. Their merchant marine is constituted on a much smaller scale than ours, and they probably feel the effects of competition at least as much as we do, and are thus reluctant to place restrictions on their merchant service. But we think there is something to be said for the noble Marquess's suggestion, and I am now in communication with my noble friend the Secretary of State to see whether we cannot address some kind of circular inquiry to foreign countries on the subject.

MILITARY MANŒUVRES BILL [H.L.].

Read 3ª (according to order). An Amendment made. Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned at ten minutes before Five o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 17th March, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP B).

Mr. CAWLEY reported from the Committee on Group B of Private Bills; That the parties promoting the South Metropolitan Gas Bill had stated that the evidence of Vivian B. Lewes, Professor of Chemistry at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, was essential to their case; and, it having been proved that his attendance could not be procured without the intervention of the House, he had been instructed to move that the said Vivian B. Lewes do attend the said Committee on Monday next, at Eleven of the clock.

Ordered, That Vivian B. Lewes do attend the Committee on Group B of Private Bills on Monday next, at Eleven of the clock.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP D).

Captain JESSEL reported from the Committee on Group D of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, they had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven o'clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP A).

Mr. AGG-GARDNER reported from the Committee on Group A of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Tuesday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

COAL MINES EMPLOYMENT BILL.

Petition of the Mining Association of Great Britain, against; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition from Liverpool, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

HISTORICAL MANUSCRIPTS (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Copy presented, of Report on Manuscripts in the Welsh Language. Vol. I., Part III., and Vol. II., Part III. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ROYAL SCOTTISH MUSEUM.

Copy presented, of Report by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh, for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).

Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Western Division of Scotland for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) (GENERAL REPORTS).

Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Southern Division of Scotland for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SANITARY INSPECTORS AND INSPECTORS OF WORKSHOPS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 15th February; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 87.]

AFRICA (No. 2, 1905).

Copy presented, of Report on the possibilities of Cotton Growing in the East Africa Protectorate for 1904 (in continuation of No. 606, Miscellaneous Series) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 16th March; *Mr. Victor Cavendish*]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Unsatisfactory Small Arms Ammunition.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War what reply, if any, has yet been sent to the Comptroller and Auditor-General respecting the 50,000,000 rounds of small arm ammunition returned from South Africa as unfit; whether he can now state the names of the firms supplying the ammunition; and what is proposed to be done with the surplus of this rejected ammunition not already expended in field practice, having regard to the statement at page 256 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General that even in field practice the cartridges are unsatisfactory and in some instances dangerous.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) A reply was sent to the Auditor-General on the 22nd ultimo. The ammunition was collected from all sources at the end of the campaign. The origin of manufacture cannot, therefore, be traced. Of the rounds still available 30,000,000 can be re-made at a cost of about £1,200 per 1,000,000.

Missing Mules.

DR. MACNAMARA: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now give any information as to what became of the 841 mules, out of a shipment of 999 from New Orleans, which were landed at Beira, as described at page 12 of the third Report of the Public Accounts Committee, 1904, and were lost on the march from Beira to Marandallas on the way to the Rhodesian Field Force.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Further information has been obtained showing that 857 mules were actually landed at Beira, the balance having died on the voyage as the result of an outbreak of glanders. Further losses and deaths occurred during the journey through Portugese territory. From reports rendered by the officer in charge of the transport of the Rhodesian Field Force it appeared that about 1,700 mules reached Marandallas and were taken over for service with the force. But the exact numbers cannot be given. I am informed that the returns in which that officer should have accounted for the number of animals received by him were lost in South Africa.

South African War Stores.

DR. MACNAMARA: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will lay Papers showing the instances in which rations, stores, and supplies generally despatched to South Africa during 1899, 1900, and 1901 were destroyed or returned as unfit in quality or short in amount, with the reason for their destruction or return, and the names of the contractors supplying such stores in each case.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) I am afraid that I cannot undertake to give a Return of all such cases, but I will ascertain whether, without throwing excessive labour on the War

Department, it be possible to give information in respect to all cases involving a loss of £5,000 or upwards.

Irish Language in the Post Office.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that an Irish speaker who required a postcard in the month of August last, at the post office of Clifden, Connemara, one of the most Irish-speaking districts of Ireland, had to draw a picture of the postcard before he could make the official understand what he required; whether any complaint was received on the subject; and can he say what steps will be taken to prevent the recurrence of such inconvenience to the public.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The hon. Member appears to have been misinformed. I find the fact is that last autumn a person who is described as an "Irish-Language Organiser," and who was able to speak English perfectly well, asked in Irish for a postcard, which was supplied to him as soon as the sub-postmaster guessed what he wanted. No picture was drawn, and no complaint made, except that the applicant abused the sub-postmaster. He subsequently conversed with him in English. The incident was not reported. It is not in my power to take steps which will prevent the manufacture of artificial grievances.

Railway Sub-Offices—Distances from Chief Post Offices.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can state the distance between the municipal borough, classed as railway sub-office, and the chief office in each of the following cases, viz., Gillingham (Kent), Ilkeston, and Wallsend.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Gillingham is approximately one and a half miles from the Chatham Post Office; Ilkeston eight miles from the Nottingham Post Office; and Wallsend four miles from the Newcastle Post Office.

Post Office and Distribution of Money Lenders' Circulars.

MR. MARSHALL HALL (Lancashire, Southport): To ask the Postmaster-General if he will consider the possibility of making, and, if practicable, make regulations to prevent the Post Office being made the medium of distribution for letters, circulars, and other communications from money lenders or their agents offering to make advances of cash to the addressees of such letters, circulars, or communications.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I regret I have, up to now, been able to find no means by which I can stop a practice which I much deplore and would willingly stop.

Irish Schools Teaching Irish, French, and Latin.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of schools in Ireland which teach the Irish, French, and Latin languages; and what is the scale of fees charged for these extra subjects respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) According to the latest available Returns the number of schools in which Irish, French, and Latin, respectively, are taught is as follows: Irish, 2,018; French, 193; Latin, 109. No statistics are available as to the number of schools in which these subjects form part of the ordinary day-school curriculum; nor as to the scale of fees charged to the pupils for instruction in these branches as extra subjects. The Commissioners pay fees to the teachers for instruction in these branches as extra subjects according to the following scale:—Irish, 10s. per pupil, per annum; French, 5s. per pupil, per annum; Latin, 5s. per pupil, per annum.

Royal Irish Constabulary—Case of Head Constable James Reid.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say what was the nature of the district inspector's report of the Royal Irish Constabulary depot against Head Constable James Reid, which caused his transfer to county Galway; did the head constable get any opportunity of refuting the statements in the report; and is he aware that the head constable is now stationed where he is compelled to send his children to a convent school.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) On January 1st, 1900, the head constable was appointed assistant police instructor. On 29th July, 1902, he was informed that, as the superior post of police instructor was in future to be held for a definite term of three years, a similar rule would apply to the post of assistant. In accordance with that ruling the head constable reverted to the ordinary duties of his rank on January 1st, 1903, and was allocated to Loughrea, county Galway. No report was made against him. The head constable, having passed the necessary examination, is about to be promoted to the rank of district inspector, and will then be allocated to another district. No complaint has been received from him to the effect mentioned in the concluding part of the Question.

Army Estimates—Vote 1.

MR. SEELY (Lincoln): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the total amount included in Vote 1 of the Estimates that is paid to warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men; and what was the amount in the Estimates for the year ending March 31st, 1899.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The amount included in Vote 1, 1905–6, for emoluments of warrant officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, borne on regimental establishments, including Army Reserve, is approximately £8,400,000. The corresponding amount in Estimates 1898–9 was £5,700,000. There are, besides, a number of military subordinates employed in schools of instruction, staff offices, etc., not included in the above figures.

Erection of Pier in Sharfleet Creek—Damage to Oyster Fishery.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the War Office will, with a view to a settlement, grant Mr. W. H. Williamson, the claimant for damages arising from the erection of a pier in Sharfleet Creek Oyster Fishery, the privilege of submitting his claims to a competent tribunal, which request has also been made to the War Office by the Oyster Merchants' Committee assembled at Fishmongers Hall; and, further, under what Act of Parliament was the pier in question erected.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Mr. Williamson has been already informed that the Secretary of State for War is not prepared to submit the matter to arbitration. To the information already communicated to Mr. Williamson I have nothing further to add.

Jam Contracts for South Africa.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether, at the time the orders for the supply of jam to South Africa were placed by the War Office through the Agents-General for the Colonies, any communication or report was made by such Agents to the War Office as to the names of the parties supplying, and as to the terms and conditions of such supply; and, if not, when and how did the War Office first become aware thereof.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) As the orders were placed with the Colonial authorities through their Agents-General the names of the firms who enabled the colony to carry out its engagements did not concern the War Office. The Colonies did not, as a rule, furnish such information. The terms and conditions of supply were settled between the War Office and the Agents-General. In some cases nominal weights were agreed to, in other cases net weights were specified. The present inquiry was raised by the fact that certain stocks of jam in South Africa, which were regarded as consisting of net weights, were subsequently reported to contain only nominal weights.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE: To ask the Secretary of State for War when, by whom, and why, were the orders for jam supplied to South Africa placed with the Agents-General for the Colonies.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Orders were placed at various dates between November, 1900, and April, 1902. They were placed by the Director of Contracts under instructions from the Secretary of State for War, and with the consent of the Quartermaster-General. The object in view was to meet the requirements of the troops in South Africa, and, at the pressing request of the Colonial Governments, to give the Colonies an opportunity of participating in the contracts for supplies.

Transvaal War Contribution Loan.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there has been any correspondence between the Colonial Office and the High Commissioner, or between the Colonial Office and the guarantors, with regard to the issue of the Transvaal War Contribution Loan since January, 1904; and what has been the purport of such correspondence.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) There has been no correspondence between the Colonial Office and the guarantors since January, 1904, excepting a reply dated February 10th, 1904, to their letter of 6th January, published at page 181 of Cd. 1895, stating that the further consideration of the arrangements for the issue of the first instalment must be postponed for the present. I am not prepared to state the purport of any correspondence on this subject between the Colonial Office and Lord Milner, these communications having been of a strictly confidential nature.

Revenue and Expenditure of Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

MR. BUCHANAN: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies what are the figures of revenue and expenditure of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony for the eight months ending 28th February, 1905, also the Intercolonial revenue and expenditure for the same period.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The latest figures at my disposal are contained in my Answers to the hon. Member and to the hon. Member for Poplar on the 20th† and 21st‡ of February respectively. Figures up to the end of February will not be available for some time; but I am asking by telegram for figures to the end of January, which I expect are now ready.

COAL MINES EMPLOYMENT BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. JACOBY (Derbyshire, Mid.) said that as he had the honour to represent a large mining constituency he felt it was not only a duty but a pleasure to move the Second Reading of this Bill. It was a much more moderate measure than the larger Bill which had formerly been in the hands of those who represented the Miners' Federation of Great Britain. This Bill did not deal with adult labour. It dealt with the hours of boys under eighteen years of age, and its object was to limit the working hours underground to eight hours per day. He was personally in favour of an eight hours day for all employed in underground labour. He believed it was a great principle which was at the root of the labour question. There was no doubt a large minority in the House which objected, rightly or wrongly, to deal with the question of adult labour. Moreover, there were certain Labour Members from Northumberland and Durham who saw eye to eye with him and others on many great labour problems, but on this one question of the limitation of the hours of those who worked underground they were unfortunately in opposition to them.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.): We think you are in opposition to us.

*MR. JACOBY assured the hon. Member that on this question he was in a hopeless minority. Five out of every six of organised miners' labour leaders were in favour of the proposal now submitted to the House. The hon. Member could not deny that proposition. This was an honest proposal on their part to deal with the length of hours of boys who worked underground. He hardly believed that the Labour representatives from Northumberland and Durham approved of a scheme by which their men worked seven hours and their boys ten hours in the mines. His remedy was a simple and moderate one. If the hon. Members from the North approved of a ten hours day in the mines let them say so. If they did not approve of it, and if they opposed the remedy he brought before the House, he asked them what was their remedy for dealing with this vexed question. There were 45,000 underground workers under the age of eighteen. Of these, over 9,000 were employed in the mines of Northumberland and Durham. Why should eighty per cent. of the young people be denied the right of working an eight hours day because twenty per cent. objected to the proposal. The opposition of the mineowners, who were only interested in getting as much labour as they could from these boys, was not, he thought, an opposition that would have much weight with the House of Commons. It was an interested opposition—a question more or less of pounds, shillings, and pence. We had arrived at the time of day when the rights of humanity and the development of young life was a far higher consideration in the minds of the Members of the House of Commons than the sordid desire to increase profits and gain larger dividends. He desired that the discussion on this matter should be calm and business-like, and the one thing he wished for was that this grave scandal of boys working underground for ten hours should be put an end to. In other counties there was one shift of boys to one shift of men, but in Northumberland and Durham they found there was one shift of boys to two shifts of men. Was the spirit of chivalry dead in Northumberland and Durham? [Cries of "No, no!"] He was very glad to hear his hon. friends say so, and he hoped they would vote for this Bill. It looked very curious that the men there should work under seven hours and the poor unfortunate boys should be kept down for ten hours. It was important for the physical development and growth of those who were, after all, to be the men of the future that they should have every opportunity given them for physical and social improvement.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 591.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 767.

No doubt he would be told by his friends from the North that they would approve of this measure if the principle of local option were introduced. He did not believe in local option for the mining industry. It might be all very well for the drink traffic, but it was a different thing when they were dealing with the hours of working men. They would have one district fighting against another and the end would be worse than the beginning. They should have a feeling manifested—he did not say whether on the part of the masters or the men—in Northumberland and Durham to go on as they were now doing. On the other hand, on account of the competition, an objection would be raised to the measure in the other parts of the great coalfields of the country, which would prevent it from being anything else than waste paper. He would ask the representatives of Northumberland and Durham whether they did or did not consider ten hours work underground too much. If they thought it was too much what was their remedy for the present state of affairs? This Bill could hardly be called a new proposal, for it had been discussed in another form for many years. The principle was exactly the same. There was no doubt that, but for the difficulty of the ten hours day for the boys of Northumberland and Durham, there would have been a universal eight hours day for miners long ago. The Miners' Federation of Great Britain, representing five-sixths of the whole of the organised mining labour in the country, and, what was equally important, the Trades Union Congress, representing all the organised trades in the country, were in favour of the change proposed by the Bill.

Why was this Bill brought forward? In the first place they said that mining was a dangerous trade. That had been recognised by the legislation which this House had passed for the safety of the life and limb of those employed in the mines. Strong as that argument was in the case of adults, it must be very much stronger in the case of those whose physique was forming, and who would be the future men of the country. It was all very well for their friends from Northumberland and Durham to say that they could not work their mines except on the present system. Even if that were so, he would prefer the interests of humanity, and especially of the young people, to any system. He should think very little of the business capacity of the hon. Baronet who so worthily represented the Chester-le-Street Division of Durham if, when this Bill became law, he did not speedily devise a system for the management of his numerous pits which would be as satisfactory to his business as to the boys he employed. He was a strong supporter of the legislative eight hours day for adults, but he considered that it was specially their duty to regulate the labour of the young who were engaged in dangerous trades. There were unfortunately diseases to which underground workers were in a particular way liable. One of these was nystagmus, or night blindness, which had been well dealt with by a medical man in Derbyshire. This eminent doctor said—

> "In the same way that the shorter time that a person is in contact with the conditions producing the disease the less chance there is of a person contracting it, so there is no doubt that the shorter the time a miner works under defective illumination the less likely is he to get miner's nystagmus. I find at the end of the day that the eyes of the men who suffer from the disease are worse than at the beginning of the shift."

There was another disease known as worm disease, cases of which had unfortunately been found in Cornwall. There had also been a case discovered at Glasgow. [AN HON. MEMBER: Not in coal mines.] Well, in mines. His right hon. friend the Member for Forest of Dean had dealt with child labour in mines, and the House might regard this measure as the corollary of that useful legislation. He asked the House, with confidence, to support this Bill. The boys of to-day were the men of to-morrow, and it was their solemn duty to give them every opportunity of acquitting themselves in the great battle of life and of improving and increasing the prestige of this great nation on which the sun never sets.

*MR. T. RICHARDS (Monmouthshire, W.) claimed the indulgence of the House in addressing it for the first time. It would hardly be necessary, in explaining the provisions of the Bill, to say more than a few words after the lucid speech of the hon. Member who introduced it. What was intended to be brought about by this short and simple measure was a limitation of working hours underground to eight per day for boys of eighteen years of age and under. The principal Act provided that boys of less than sixteen years of age should not work underground for more than fifty-four hours in one week, or more than ten hours in any one day. What the Bill now before the House proposed to do was to change the age from sixteen to eighteen, and the restriction was to be applied from ten hours in any one day to eight hours during any consecutive twenty-four hours.

Seeing the favourable position which his hon. friend had secured in the ballot for the introduction of this Bill, those who had hitherto supported it had been looking forward to securing a majority in its favour at its Second Reading, and also an opportunity of its becoming law during the present session. But after the statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Attorney-General last Friday in respect to another Bill, those hopes had been partially, if not altogether, blighted. The right hon. Gentleman the Attorney-General then told the House that the Second Reading of a private Member's Bill was to be simply regarded as a Resolution passed by this House. He would very respectfully, but, at the same time very sincerely, protest, on behalf of the trade unionists in the House, against the Second Reading of a measure like that of last Friday, with its great majority, being treated simply as the adoption of a Resolution. He also hoped that the Second Reading of the present Bill would be passed by an equally decisive majority, and that that would be treated as something more important than the passing of a Resolution. If the passing of a Resolution did something to remedy the grievances of the working classes, they would have been without an ache or a pain many years ago. The earliest recollection he had of a resolution for the purpose of improving the conditions in which the miners of this country worked was passed on a hill-side in his school days. He, with other boys, was taking an unauthorised holiday, and seeing a gathering of workmen on a hill-side he listened to the resolutions discussed and passed by that meeting. It was repeated over and over again, until it became, in fact, a marching song for the boys going to school, and, to some extent, fortified them against the terrors of the inevitable caning to which they were looking forward, when they would have done with the terrors, the difficulties, and the suffering of school life, and had, in fact, become participants in the fruits of the resolution—"eight hours work, eight hours play, eight hours sleep, and eight shillings a day." They had been passing that resolution from that time to the present. He had had twenty years experience in the coal mines, and they were not spent in the happy conditions to which they looked forward to in his schoolboy days. Although this Bill proposed a limited measure for the boys' work in the mines, he was still a strong believer in the old resolution, and that eight hours were quite sufficient for any one, whatever his age or constitution, to follow an arduous, gloomy, and highly dangerous calling. He wanted the House to remember, so far as Resolutions were concerned, that an Eight Hours Bill had been read a second time by this House on three separate occasions by large majorities; and he hoped when this limited measure had been introduced, referring to boys under the age of eighteen years, that it would be passed by a large majority.

This question had been so often discussed that it was rather difficult for a new and nervous Member to add very much to the debate. He had been a very interested listener on one occasion, in the Strangers' Gallery, to a graphic description of the life of a collier in a coal mine by the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for the Newton Division of Lancashire. That hon. and gallant Member described a colliery as a hole in the ground into which as many as 500 men descended at the same time. The hon. and gallant Gentleman also gave many other picturesque and beautiful details in respect to the working of the mines in this country. What were the feelings of ordinary working miners in regard to that speech? These men had taken a day off for the purpose of coming up to the House to hear what could be said by hon. Members opposite as to their dangerous calling. He was sitting beside these men up in the Strangers' Gallery and heard the speech of the hon. and gallant Member for the Newton Division, and in going down the steps outside after the House rose, he asked one of them what his feeling was in regard to the speech of the hon. and gallant Member for Newton. "Well," said the miner, "my feeling and that of my pal was the most profane silence I have ever listened to." In fact, the hon. and gallant Member for Newton Division gave such a beautiful description of the conditions of a miner's life that he should not be surprised if the hon. and gallant Gentleman wishing to escape from the severity of our climate went into a coal mine as a comfortable winter residence.

He should like to give his own experience as to the conditions of a boy's life in the mines. He did not suppose that these conditions had very much improved since he was a boy. He might be told that many of these conditions did not apply to the boy's life in other parts of the country, but he spoke of what it was in South Wales. Large numbers of these boys lived miles away from the mines and had to be conveyed by train to their work. They had to be up very early in the morning and make their way to the train which had been standing in a siding all night, no matter how severe the weather was. Often the windows and doors of the carriages were broken, and the first thing the passengers had to do in the winter time was to clear away the snow from the seats. No light was provided, and the journey often occupied half an hour, with the temperature possibly below freezing point. On arrival at the pit head they descended the shaft and had to walk to the place in the mine where they were employed. This walking seemed to have been lost sight of by the opponents of this Bill, but he would tell the House that sometimes the walk was a mile or two miles long. A circular had been sent to Members of the House from the North of England Coal Trade Association in which the roads underground were described as spacious and well-ventilated. Hon. Members would imagine from that description that these roads were like Parliament Street or the Thames Embankment. He supposed that that description appealed to the hon. Gentlemen who represented the counties of Durham and Northumberland. Even if that were so, he challenged any one to say that that was a fair description of the mine roads in the collieries in Northumberland and Durham. He knew nothing about them, but he knew the South Wales collieries, and he challenged the shortest Member in the House of Commons to walk a mile in any ordinary mine roadway in this country with his head erect.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.): I know some.

*MR. T. RICHARDS said that he repeated the statement that in an ordinary colliery roadway it was impossible for the shortest man in the House of Commons to walk that distance with head erect. If any man did endeavour to do so he would have a very solid and forcible reminder that greater humility was expected of him. These boys had to walk along these roadways together with hundreds of other workmen and a number of horses, over wire ropes, iron rollers, and other obstacles. They had to walk this distance before they commenced work, and they, consequently, arrived at the working places in an exhausted state before they began their day's labour. Moreover, the atmosphere and temperature were injurious to health, and the workers were liable at any moment to be disabled for life, or deprived of life altogether. Much had been said in this House on the question of the comparative danger of the miners' calling compared with other dangerous callings in this country, but he wanted to impress upon the House the fact that it was the miner who had to wrestle with the forces of nature; to break into her stronghold; to rifle her safe and contend with her where she was best able to defend herself. Notwithstanding all the safeguards and improvements in the mining of to-day, there was still a sacrifice of 1,000 lives a year, and beyond that 10,000 disfigured and crippled men came up from the collieries to rely on casual labour for their living, annually. Let the House consider the conditions under which these men and boys had to work during their nine hour shift at the face. There were, perhaps, 1,000 men and boys working at the face in narrow galleries raising dust and releasing noxious gases at every stroke of the pick; in addition to which there was the smoke from 1,000 safety lamps, and there was the dust and dirt caused by the horses employed and by the whirling trains of coal carried along the intake all day long at a high speed—along the only road through which fresh air reached these men and boys—was it human to allow lads of less than eighteen years of age to spend more than eight hours a day in such an atmosphere? In addition to that there was the high temperature to be considered. It would be bad enough if the temperature was low, but with the temperature averaging from sixty-eight to eighty-nine degrees, the conditions were such that young lives could not thrive. A Bill had recently been introduced into the German Parliament which provided that when the average temperature of a mine was eighty-two degrees, the hours of work by the miners should not exceed six hours. Our boys in this country were at present working ten hours a day. It would, no doubt, be said that the statistics with regard to the physical and general health of those engaged in dangerous callings did not bear out the statements he had made. That was true. But they did not do so because scores and hundreds of boys who commenced life in the mines were, after working a year or two, ordered by doctors not to work any more underground and they had to find other means of livelihood. There were scores and hundreds of cases of apparently strong and robust boys of nineteen, twenty, and twenty-one being ordered by the doctors not to work underground and, of course, those cases would not be found in the statistics supplied to the House. Often, too, miners, although their health was impaired, struggled on with that courage that was characteristic of the miners of this country, struggled on for a number of years, till, perhaps, they were forty or fifty years old and then they had to leave and occupy themselves as casual labourers. Their deaths were not recorded in the mine statistics either. The mine statistics did not show the actual state of things with respect to the physical deterioration of the youths employed in mines.

Another important point on which he desired to touch was that of firemen. Those were the men who held the most responsible positions in our mines. They were responsible for the safety of the mine and of the lives of the men in it. Up to the present they did not require to pass any examination and obtain any certificate as to competency. He submitted that it was not sufficient that a man should satisfy the manager and that he should be put into such a responsible position without any qualification. The time had come when the Government and the country should insist that these men occupying these very important positions should be certified as being capable of the duties they had to perform. Ten or twenty firemen were responsible for the safe working of the mine; they were the men who had to meet any emergency which arose; and they were the men who were invariably found dead at their posts when any accident occurred. The time had come when men who were called upon to fill these onerous positions should have the necessary training to enable them to attend to the safety of the mines under their care, which could only be secured by working them shorter hours as boys.

He now had to notice the opposition of the direct representatives of the miners of Northumberland and Durham in this House. He desired to disassociate himself from anything that might be said in respect to their personal feeling in this matter. This Bill was introduced for the benefit of the miners of the country as a whole, and the long and faithful devotion of the two hon. Members to whom he referred, to the cause of the miners, made it difficult for him to say that they were wrong, though he believed them to be wrong. He would ask those hon. Members to go through the statistics and compare the number of fatal accidents to boys of under sixteen years of age working in the mines to the number of those in other dangerous trades. If they did that, he thought they would say there was some reason for abolishing a system which was so unfair, in the interests of the boys. The hon. Baronet the Member for Chester-le-Street and his colleagues would undoubtedly tell the House again that they had been sent to this House by the workmen to oppose this reduction of hours, but the hon. Baronet must remember that they were not seeking to reduce the hours of the workmen but of the boys, and the boys did not vote for the hon. Baronet. If the boys had to vote at the next election they would vote for the hon. Member for Mid-Durham, because of his manly speech on the Trades Disputes Bill, but they would see that the hon. Baronet did not show the same feverish anxiety to champion their cause in measures of that kind as he did to prevent Parliament imposing on them shorter hours, and in his opinion the boys would do well in his case to pray the prayer of the gunner of Trafalgar, who offered a prayer just before the battle that the shots of the enemy would be distributed in the same proportion between the officers and men as the prize-money was likely to be.

He did not propose to deal with the cost, but to point out that here was an additional reason why the Chancellor of the Exchequer should remove the coal tax, and a splendid opportunity for making a condition of his doing so that the colliery owners should drop their opposition to this Bill. He appealed to the House to pass this measure, and thus deal with the raw material of human life at its most dangerous and delicate stage. This was the age when education if not continued became valueless. This was the period when the greatest physical deterioration took place. These were the boys who, disgusted with their hard conditions, offered themselves to the Army and were unfit. They pleaded for the boys of to-day, the men of the future. Men, and not "mere workmen," as they were designated contemptuously by an hon. Member of this House the other day at Cardiff. Men, who at the very moment they were thus described by this modern Coriolanus in the camp of the enemy, were at Cardiff, in the Rhondda Valley, battling with the flames to rescue their fellows, and, even when that was hopeless, continuing, with the chivalry and courage the late Mr. Gladstone credited them with, in trying to save the property of the colliery owner.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. HARRIS (Tynemouth) said the House of Commons was never indifferent to the appeals that were made to it on behalf of labour, or by hon. Members who represented Labour constituencies, and it was a matter of congratulation that no complaints were made that the claims of working men did not receive careful and adequate consideration at their hands. On this score the hon. Member who moved the Bill and the hon. Member who seconded it in an admirable maiden speech need have no fear, and they might have the satisfaction of knowing, that in appealing to the sentiment of the House of Commons, they had found the weakest and most vulnerable spot in their opponents' armour. They had asked the House for its sympathy, and to an appeal for sympathy the House was always ready to respond. Tales of hardship and dangers had often more weight with it than grave economic and industrial considerations, and the fact that a clause had been inserted in this year's Bill, limiting it to persons of under eighteen years of age had shown the wisdom of its promoters and would, no doubt, be used by them as an additional claim upon their sympathy. But appeals of that nature were amongst the most dangerous appeals they had to meet. In our private and public affairs our sympathies were generally with those whose fortunes were not so happy as our own, we were liable to make great concessions in their favour, and often to let our kindness override our common sense. Therefore, when a Bill of such momentous and profound importance as this had to be considered, and when it was supported by appeals to their feelings, it was their duty to examine it with the most scrupulous care, so that they did not lose its sense of proportion or allow their judgment to be warped by sentiment.

What was the object of the present Bill? Its object was to prohibit any male person of under eighteen years of age from being employed below ground for more than eight hours in any one day. Eight hours below ground was by no means synonymous with eight hours of work. A man had to get to and from his work. He had his meals, and, when the time occupied in these proceedings was deducted, eight hours below ground represented but little more, on an average, than six or six and a-half hours employment. He admitted that they were perfectly justified in interfering in trades disputes. The House of Commons was in a position to hold a happy balance between interests often dissimilar and sometimes antagonistic, and they were obviously entitled, and even bound, to legislate, when it could be shown that such legislation was called for to protect the health or moral welfare of those concerned, even if such legislation should happen to be to the detriment of some particular trade. But he maintained that it was only under such circumstances they should interfere in the freedom of contract between employer and employed, or say to the one "you shall not buy," and to the other "you shall not sell more than a given amount of labour in each day." In such cases it was very necessary for them that they should have ample proof that the health or well-being of those they legislated for was being endangered. In the present case he maintained there was not only no evidence that this was the case, but ample evidence that it was not. For, in the first place, this was not so much a dispute between employers and employed as it was one between two sections of the employed themselves, and, in the second place, they had every evidence, strange as it might seem, to show that a miner's employment was not an unhealthy employment, but that, compared with many other industrial pursuits, it might be considered more healthy than the average. The figures of mortality, and other statistics in connection with the coal trade had often been given, and he would not trouble the House with them again, but he would ask whether the fact that the representatives of a most influential and important section of the coal-mining population were opposed to this Bill was not itself a conclusive proof that it was not needed, and that no ill was being suffered under present conditions. As the House was aware, this Bill was opposed—almost universally—by the pitmen of Northumberland and Durham. These men entirely dissociated themselves with this agitation. They had no interest in profits and were not concerned with dividends; but they recognised the great damage that would be done to the coal trade by this Bill, and they had no wish to see their trade damaged and their employment interfered with.

What was it they were asked to do? They were asked, at the instance of a majority of workers, to impose conditions upon an unwilling minority. They were asked to restrict the output of those who did not wish their output restricted, and to prohibit those from working who had every desire to work. Under such circumstances the appeal to their sympathy must fall to the ground. For what greater proof that the present conditions were not injurious could they want than that the boys themselves, their parents, and their relations, were satisfied that there existed no just cause for complaint. But the reasons why this Bill should be opposed were many and strong. What, for instance, would be the effect of such legislation on the coal industry of the North of England? He need not go into a detailed explanation as to the method employed there, and which was found best suited to the natural conditions that existed, but any alteration such as that which was proposed would entail a complete change of system involving either a large increase in the number of boys employed, or a large reduction in the number of men employed, and would in either case inevitably lead to heavy additional burdens to the owners of colliery property without any corresponding compensation in the shape of an increased production of coal. Boys could not be obtained with the same facility as men. The men could move from district to district and could take their families with them, but this was not the case with the boys who lived at home. They must find work in the neighbourhood of their parents. And besides this, boy labour was becoming every day in many localities, such as that of the River Tyne, more scarce and more expensive. In the great factories and shipyards of the Tyne machinery worked by boys was taking the place of the older methods, and as improvements in the erection of labour-saving machinery were made, the difficulty in obtaining boys must still further increase.

Mr. MARKHAM ((Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): In what counties is there a scarcity. There is none in Yorkshire, Derbyshire, or Warwickshire.

Mr. HARRIS: There is in many parts of Northumberland.

Mr. MARKHAM: Because you work such long hours.

Mr. HARRIS denied that that was the case. Continuing, he said that in any question of this kind it was impossible to say how great the harm would be or where it would end. That it would be great to the coal trade of the North of England was certain. The hon. Member for Mansfield himself a few years ago told the House that the price would be increased by a sum of 6d. per ton, and personally he at that time thought the calculation too low.

Mr. MARKHAM: The hon. Member is unintentionally misrepresenting me. I say if they worked two eight hour-shifts the cost would be reduced, but with one eight-hour shift it would be increased by 6d. at the outside.

Mr. HARRIS said his recollection was that the hon. Member said that in Northumberland and Durham any alteration of the present system meant at least an increase of 6d. per ton. But other estimates up to as high as 2s. had been given. His point was that even an increase of 6d. would seriously handicap the coal industry of this country. A very large part of this coal had to compete in the markets of the world with coal produced by cheaper labour abroad.

Mr. JOHN WILSON: Then abolish your export duty.

Mr. HARRIS said that would not cover the whole field. The inevitable tendency of an addition to the cost of production must be to enlarge the area of the market of our competitors whilst restricting the area of our markets abroad. But, great as would be the damage to this, our greatest trade, the effects of our legislation would also be felt in the other great trades of this country. The shipping trade must inevitably be greatly prejudiced. How great the harm of even a small rise was would be realised when it was remembered that one ton of coal would transport one ton of cargo a distance of between 50,000 and 60,000 miles under favourable conditions, and that 1d. worth of coal would carry one ton of goods by sea for some 350 miles. But it was not the coal trade and shipping alone that would suffer; practically every trade in this country was dependent upon coal. In our factories some 53,000,000 tons of coal were consumed every year. Our railways, the Coal Committee estimated, burnt 13,000,000 tons a year. 15,000,000 tons were used in our gas works, whilst in our domestic consumption we burnt no less than 32,000,000 tons. The burden imposed by this Bill would be upon each of these interests and would be no light one. Professor Jevons said—

> "Through a rise in the price of coals we shall be taxed in everything and at every moment. Our food will be taxed as it crosses the ocean, as it is landed by steam upon the wharf, as it is drawn away by the locomotive, as the corn is ground and the bread mixed and kneaded and baked by steam, and the meat is boiled and roasted by the kitchen fire. The bricks and mortar, the iron joists, the timber that is carried and sawn and planed by steam, will be taxed. The water that is pumped into our houses and the sewage that is pumped away and the gas that lights us in and out will be taxed. Not an article of furniture or ornament, not a thread of our clothes, not a carriage we drive in, not a pair of shoes we walk in, but is partly made of coal."

The grounds, then, upon which he opposed this Bill were, first, because he held we should not legislate for the purpose of enabling a section of the working men of this country to coerce another section who were not willing to be coerced, and secondly, because he was convinced that if this Bill were put on the Statute-book its effects would be most harmful to the whole trading community of this country. He, therefore, begged to move that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

*COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince) in seconding the Amendment, said he had the honour to represent a mining constituency in Lancashire, and indirectly the Bill would have the effect of reducing labour below ground in his district to eight hours from bank to bank. So far as the boys were concerned, he agreed that coal mining was an arduous, a difficult, and a dangerous occupation, but it bred men. He did not know where this country would be without its sailors and its miners. It should be borne in mind that the time occupied in the actual work below ground differed very much from the time from bank to bank. On the average a man took an hour and a half to go to and from his place of work in the pit. If he worked six days a week he worked forty hours at the actual "face," as it was called, in the week. Mining was a fitful industry, and pits were often stopped, either from want of waggons, want of trade, or because of a breakdown. How was a man who worked forty hours at his work to recover lost time? He saw a great difficulty in that respect. He would put an entirely different case. A man who worked nine and a-half hours from bank to bank worked thirty-nine hours in the week instead of forty. He worked for five days, and he had an hour's more work at the face when he had got to the end of the week. How would the hon. Member for Mid-Derbyshire meet that case? The man might say he wanted his week-end, he wanted the hour he gained, which would give him a little money with which to enjoy himself. There was no doubt that some of the money which now went into the houses in the mining districts would be lost to the people if this Bill were passed. It was a measure he had never been able to understand. If the proposal were that when coal had been worked for a certain number of hours there should be a pause to allow the hewers who wished to leave the pit to do so, there would be sense in that, but this was a measure which would injure the old man by making him hurry and run risks. The general tendency of modern legislation was to injure the old workman, and young workmen should bear in mind that men became old much more quickly than they expected to do when young. He should certainly vote against the Bill, believing that he did so in the interests of the miners themselves.

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out the word 'now' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Harris.*)

Question proposed—

> "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said that during his connection with a mining constituency, which had now extended over nearly twenty years, his attention had from time to time been most painfully called to the position of the boys employed in the mining industry, and he had more than once declared to his constituents that he would lose no opportunity of raising his voice on their behalf. He sympathetically recognised the difficulties which some representatives of the coal industry felt in accepting the measure now under discussion. They looked at the matter from an economic point of view, and there were no doubt great difficulties from the economic point of view. But on a matter of this kind the House of Commons should rise above the economic difficulty and look at the question more from the standard of humanity than from the actual wealth production of the labour of these boys. The economic difficulty especially affected the northern counties, where it was felt that the measure might cause serious detriment from the economic standpoint.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid): Expediency.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER said in that case he would ask hon. Members to rise above the level of expediency and to look at the matter from the point of view of what was good for the general community, and especially for the young people engaged in the mines. What, above all things, ought to be considered was the question of the vigour and vitality of the race. Everything which tended to lower that vigour and vitality was an injury to the general community. Reference had been made to the health of miners. He fully admitted that they were a strong and healthy race of men, though at ages under twenty and over fifty they died faster than the average. They came from the healthiest portion of the British race, being largely recruited from the agricultural community. But their vigour and strength was in no way connected with their calling; it was due to their habits of self-restraint and temperance. The author of the figures as to the health of miners already referred to in the debate had also written that the miners were very temperate and careful among the industrial classes, and very free from the sins of alcohol. But the same authority referred to this very question of the health of young miners, and what did he say? Dr. Tatham stated—

> "The excessive mortality of colliers under twenty years of age may be accounted for by the fact that from 40 to 50 per cent. of the total deaths are due to violence caused by the wagons and tubs. This form of accident falls mainly to the lot of the young and less experienced colliers."

That quotation carried with it two lessons—first, that there was an excessive mortality from general disease, amongst young miners, and, secondly, that there was an excessive accidental mortality amongst young miners. The excessive mortality from general disease which did not come into the statistics recorded in the Reports of the Inspectors of Mines, fell mainly on these young miners through diseases of the lungs—not consumption, for they were freer from consumption than the young people of the general population, but diseases caused by the dust of the mines, the heat, and exposure to wet and damp. The mortality from respiratory diseases was no less than 21 per cent. more among the colliers than among the ordinary population. That applied to the young colliers under twenty years of age, among whom the rate of mortality from these diseases was twice as large as among the agricultural population of the same age. That, he thought, was a sufficient answer to what had been said with regard to the healthiness of the occupation. But he particularly asked the House to look at the matter from the point of view of these young people under eighteen years of age. First of all, it was work done under very arduous conditions. More arduous conditions than those under which miners had ordinarily to work could not be conceived. Colliers were shut away from the light of the sun, working in a damp mine, in a dusty atmosphere, and frequently in a temperature of over 70 degrees, so that they had to work stripped to the waist, often practically naked. Was it right to subject young people under eighteen years of age to such conditions for ten or more hours a day? He submitted that the mere statement of the fact was a sufficient answer to those who argued in favour of boys working these long hours under such conditions. Ten hours a day was far too long even for an adult to work, let alone growing lads, and the conditions were such as all ought to deprecate and do their best to remedy. The Physical Deterioration Committee went into the matter, and made a recommendation on this very subject. They were led to do so by the evidence of Dr. Scott, who said—

> "There is one strong point that has never been touched under the Factory Acts and that is employment of children in coal mines. There is no medical examination. Fancy a fine factory, a factory inspected by His Majesty's inspector, in which no young person is allowed to enter unless he is examined by the certifying surgeon, and yet with regard to the coal pit with all its grime and dirt and misery and damp, there is no medical examination of these boys. In the night time I have heard these wretches coughing as they were going along; and yet these boys go down these pit holes where the air may be impure and water constantly dripping from the roof. The only condition is that they are to be of a certain age, and it does not matter to the managers whether they are scrofulous, rickety, phthisical, or anything else — they get them into the pit."

That evidence, given within the last few months, was sufficient to excite the anxiety of every Member in the House who was anxious to prevent human suffering without inflicting undue injury upon an important industry. The fact that the labour was arduous, that the conditions were undesirable, and that the boys were not medically examined, justified the careful inquiry which would be given by a Committee of this House if the present Bill were referred to it, and that was one reason why he supported the Second Reading. From personal observation he knew that these boys on leaving their work were thoroughly exhausted. He had seen them come from the pits thoroughly worn out, and he remembered a friend of his, who once worked in the pits, telling him that his exhaustion was such that when he got home he knew nothing until he awoke and found himself in bed, having been washed, stripped, and put to bed without knowing anything about it. That was the kind of fatigue which everyone had seen as the result of the work these boys had to do in coal pits.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid): No.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: I am stating a fact.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.): It might have been so fifty years ago.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER said it was still so to a large extent; it was only necessary to watch the boys coming from the pits to see how utterly exhausted they were. The boys were allowed to work ten hours a day. That that was too long a period for any young person to work, especially in heavy muscular labour, was the view of the greatest scientific authorities who had written on the subject. A celebrated physiologist—Pettenkoffer—investigated this matter very carefully, and a few years ago there was published an article on the Physiology of Labour based on his researches. What was the conclusion of that article?

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.): What is the date of the article?

*SIR WALTER FOSTER: 1892. The article concluded as follows—

> "What, however, can be stated without fear of contradiction is that there is a distinct limit to the power of physical endurance, and that this limit can be exceeded in nine hours work. Therefore Pettenkoffer's experiments must lead us to the conclusion that eight hours hard muscular work is quite as much as can be safely undertaken even by the strong and healthy."

That applied to full-grown men, but in this case they were dealing with boys. Upon the highest scientific authority eight hours a day was long enough for men, and therefore ten hours was too long for the law to allow boys to work These poor overworked boys supplied scores of martyrs to the calling in which they were engaged. There was no more pitiable catalogue in the English language than the list of deaths reported by His Majesty's inspectors of mines. During many years boy after boy had been sacrificed to this industry, and he thought it was the duty of every hon. Member to put a stop to this terrible sacrifice. In 1902 147 boys or children under eighteen years of age were killed in and about coal mines, and in 1903 142. [AN HON. MEMBER: How many were engaged?] He did not care how many were engaged, but his point was that a nation could not afford to lose in two years 280 boys of tender years when this loss could be avoided. He admitted that the number of deaths amongst boys was not, as a rule, greater than amongst men, and if they took the general percentage the death rate amongst the boys was much the same as the men. If, however, the statistics were carefully analysed they would find that they did not bear out this view, and the lads suffered a little more than the men. According to the report of Mr. Le Neve Foster—

> "The boy suffers more than the man in certain districts."

He had given a table of the death rate from accidents for boys and men for the last six years for certain districts such as Newcastle, Durham, Yorkshire, and Lincoln. He did not think that there was anything more pitiful than a young life under twenty being cut off by an avoidable accident. This was one of the worst human tragedies. How did it work out? In Durham the death rate amongst boys in 1898 was nearly double that of the men, it was more than double in 1900, and nearly treble in 1902. In the Newcastle district in 1898 the death rate was nearly double, and more than double in 1899, and two and a-half times as great as that of the men in 1901. In the Yorkshire district the death rate amongst the boys was double that of men in 1899. So that there was a terribly heavy toll exacted from the boys in those districts, where it was heavier than amongst the men. Those figures applied to boys under sixteen years

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) pointed out that since the Compensation Act came into operation there had been 607 deaths for which compensation had been paid in connection with the Durham Miners' Union. Of this total there were between the age of fifteen and twenty years ninety-five, the balance being above twenty years. He would like to know how the hon. Member made it double below twenty years.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER said the hon. Member's figures might be more correct than the Blue-books, but, nevertheless, he preferred the Blue-books, and the figures worked out for boys of sixteen at 3·51 deaths per thousand for 1902 in Durham, and in the same year amongst men at 1·06 per thousand. Those were the Government figures for that district, and he pinned his faith to them as showing that there was amongst those boys a terrible sacrifice of life. As regarded the year 1904, speaking of the general death rate of the miners, he was sorry that the figures did not indicate any improvement. In this very dangerous calling the death rate from accidents amongst miners had not gone down during the last five years as they had anticipated, and it was much higher than it should be. The total deaths for 1904 were 1,084, which was higher than it had been since 1901. The average for the five years was 1,083, a total which they had hoped some years back would never be reached again. The mortality among boys arose mainly during the handling of the tubs and the hauling of the coal. This was work in which a good deal of care had to be exercised, and those employed had to be very agile in getting out of the way in order to avoid being crushed. They would find in the Inspector's Report case after case of boys being crushed where a little more agility might have saved them. This condition arose from too long labour, and nothing made those employed so dull and stupid as long hours of labour, and therefore anything that shortened those hours would materially lessen this danger. The German statistics provided a certain amount of confirmation of this, for they showed that amongst colliers there were more deaths at the latter end of the week than at the beginning. His attention was more particularly drawn to this matter on account of an inquest that was held upon a boy who had been ten hours continuously employed in this work. At the time he called the attention of the House to it, and Lord Llandaff (the Home Secretary) made an inquiry into it, and he found that another boy in the same district and possibly in the same employment had been killed a short time before, who had been continuously employed for fourteen hours. He found a year ago recorded by one of His Majesty's inspectors a similar death in the case of a boy in South Wales, who had been fifteen hours at work. It was true that in this case it was a surface boy. No wonder those employed in this industry became tired, languid, and dulled in their senses, and therefore were unable to move quickly enough in order to escape being run over by one of those tram cars from which they could not escape with sufficient celerity.

The whole question of saving the lives of those boys lay in shortening the long hours of labour to which they were at present subjected. It might be said that those accidents, occurring as they did to those boys, after all did not form a sufficient basis for altering the law. But apart altogether from the death rate, which was a terrible blot upon the condition of the coal-mining industry, he contended that the hours were far more than they ought to allow young and growing boys to work underground in a Christian country. They would never allow their own children to undergo labour of that kind. There were very few people in the country who would allow their sons to go and work in coal pits if they could find anything better for them. He had gone down pits over and over again, and in that atmosphere of darkness, dulness, dampness, and discomfort a very brief time was quite sufficient for him, but to work in it for ten hours was something which no young boy ought to be called upon to endure. Look at the question from a physiological point of view. What happened at their public schools? There they had nothing like these long hours of labour, and one of the greatest authorities upon the treatment of boys, Dr. Clement Dukes stated in a paper on this question, certain definite rules which had not been controverted. This doctor had had an experience of some twenty-five years in public school work, and he asserted that boys between thirteen and fifteen years of age ought not to work more than thirty hours, and that boys between fifteen and seventeen years of age ought not to work more than thirty-six hours per week. In the industry they were now considering, boys were allowed to work in the pit for fifty-four hours per week, and in seeking to lessen that number he thought they were doing a good thing not only for the industry and the community, but also for the nation. This was a question which told upon the physical development of the race. This House had done great service in the past in passing legislation which enabled the British race to grow stronger than it otherwise could have done under the old conditions of labour. If they had gone into Lancashire twenty-five or thirty years ago, they would have seen large numbers of weakly people, stunted in their growth under the old factory system, and presenting none of those attributes of physical development which they were so proud to see in the British race to-day. That great improvement had been brought about by the application of the Factory Acts. And here to-day was another field in which they could also improve the physical development of the people by taking away the too arduous conditions of labour. He thought this was something which the Members of the House of Commons would readily and gladly undertake. Legislation in this direction, in the past, had been carried out with the greatest benefit to the population, and he now appealed to the Members on both sides of the House to undertake similar legislation in order that the lives of these boys might be protected, and to enable them to grow up strong, healthy, and vigorous specimens of humanity. That was a high and holy work, and he asked the House to do its best to promote it.

*Mr. JOHNSON (Gateshead) said he wished at the outset to say that he entirely reciprocated the kindly feeling expressed by the mover and seconder of the Second Reading of the Bill, especially by the seconder, in what he conceived all would be willing to admit was a very able speech. Whilst they were compelled honestly to take different sides on a question of this kind there was the greatest amiability and friendliness amongst the miners of this country. He had listened very carefully to the debate so far as it had gone, and the advocates of the Bill had not, as far as he had been able to judge, shown either the possibility or the practicability of applying the principles contained in it. They had expressed a wish that the Bill should become law, but there was, to his mind, a great difference between the expression of a desire and giving substantial reasons why that desire should be put into practical application. It might have been said that they desired four hours work instead of eight hours. That was a laudable wish. He once heard a gentleman on a platform say that if everybody in this country did their fair share of work there would not be four hours, much less eight, to each person. A lazy man might have a desire to do no work at all! It was incumbent on the promoters of the Bill to say how it was possible to put its proposals into actual execution. Neither the mover nor the seconder gave any reason for reducing the age limit from twenty-one to eighteen. That was very significant, and there must be some substantial reason for it. He was modest enough to supply the omission. The reason was obviously to enlarge the acceptability of the Bill to the Members of the House. A week ago the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, in reply to the hon. Member for Oldham on the fiscal Resolution, said that that hon. Member had very adroitly spread his net very wide. He did not at all find fault with the hon. Member because he had spread his net so wide, but he should be prepared to find fault with those on his side of the House who were sufficiently innocent to fall within the meshes of the net. The same argument might be urged in this instance. The age limit had been reduced to catch votes. He was not complaining that his hon. friend should have taken that legitimate course of spreading the net widely, but he would blame hon. Members if they fell into its meshes.

Although the age had been reduced to eighteen, this Bill was their old friend of years ago—the old Eight Hours Bill dressed in a more juvenile uniform, though there were still wrinkles on its face. However much they might desire rejuvenality, hon. Members should know that they were dealing absolutely and completely with the old Eight Hours Bill. When the old Bill was discussed from year to year no point was more urgently pressed than that it would tend to uniformity. His contention was that it would not give uniformity in Durham, because the conditions there were diametrically opposed to those in other parts of the country. He denied that conditions which differed could be unified. Nature was against it to begin with. It was a wonderful thing that although they might deal with mechanical operations, adjust and readjust applied mechanics to other ends, yet when they began to tinker with the nature of things, the nature of things refused to be pressed into a mould. How would this Bill act in the North of England? Could it be so adjusted and fitted as to meet the actual condition of things. His belief was that the Bill, instead of tending to uniformity, would tend very considerably to confusion. Take a hypothetical colliery containing 100 boys, forty of whom were eighteen years of age and sixty under. In the North of England the boys took the empty waggons into the working face and brought the loaded ones out; but he understood that in the Midlands they also filled the waggons. What would be the condition of things in such a colliery as he had suggested? The sixty boys who were under eighteen years of age would have to leave their work at the end of eight hours, leaving the coal getters or hewers with no boys to attend to them after the eight hours. The forty boys over eighteen years of age would go on working for ten hours. Could anyone imagine such a system as that being applied to a factory? Then, there was the very substantial difficulty caused by the double-shift system. The double-shift system had been carried on in the North of England for more than a hundred years. In the Midlands there was an eight or nine hours shift, and it would be perhaps an easy thing to apply the proposals in the Bill there; but it would be exceedingly difficult to adjust the different hours for boys under the double-shift system. Then there was the question of danger. He did not deny that there was danger, but if the danger argument was pressed too severely no one would ever go down into a pit at all. He had worked in a coal pit from the age of nine years until he was forty, and had passed through all the grades from boy to coal getter, and no man in this House knew better than he did the dangers of such work. But there were dangers in other occupations not less great than those to which the miner was exposed. He dissented from the coloured pictures of a miner's life presented to the House that afternoon. He once heard a man remark that they ought not to go to bed because more people died in bed than out of it!

He was glad to see the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Forest of Dean present. If he might be allowed to say so, there was not a Member of that House of whom miners had so high an estimation as the right hon. Gentleman; and any honour that came to him delighted them, and any dark shadow which crossed his life enlisted their sympathy. The right hon. Gentleman was thoroughly appreciated as the best friend of not only miners but of trade unionists and workers generally. The right hon. Gentleman in 1902 quoted some figures which he was rather startled at, and said that the figures showed that there were nearly as many accidents in mines to boys between the ages of sixteen and twenty as there were to men between the ages of twenty and thirty. He wanted to say that that was not the experience in Durham.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): The figures I quoted then were taken from official sources.

*Mr. JOHNSON said that the figures were startling and did not accord with his own experience. Suppose it were attempted to try one shift of boys and men, by that one stroke a very considerable number of coal hewers in Durham would be dismissed, and the miners in Durham would not thank hon. Members in that House for making an unemployed question in Durham. That was why he said they could not solve the difficulty by making one shift for men and boys alike. There was an assumption on the part of the supporters of the Bill that if the hours of labour were shortened the danger would be reduced. That was only an assumption, and accidents had happened to boys under an eight hours day as well as under a ten hours day. They were doubling the danger, or at least increasing it to that extent, because by doubling the shifts they must increase the danger.

Perhaps the most cogent argument adduced in support of the Bill was that of humanity. The word itself was so broad in its signification that one had only to mention humanity and it brought into play all the glowing flow of sentiment which influenced our whole argument. It had been said that the boys of Durham were slaves. He denied that. It was an insult to them to say they would allow the boys to be treated like galley slaves or illtreated in the collieries of the North. They had that refinement which came to all through and by fatherhood. They were the parents of those children, and they would not allow them to submit to those conditions if they believed they were in the nature of slavery, or if they believed that any one would presume to illtreat the boys. He did not undervalue the point of sentiment. It was Mr. Disraeli who said that the world was not governed by logic but by sentiment. He believed it was largely governed by healthy sentiment, but at the same time they should, he thought, differentiate between sentiment and sentimentality, because sentiment, if allowed to carry one to extremes, carried one beyond his sounder judgment. How far did the humanity argument carry the supporters of this Bill in 1894, when a similar Bill was before a Committee of the House, which by what might be called an option clause gave an eight hours day. Why was not that local option clause accepted? If it had been they would have had an eight hours day ten years ago. That Bill was withdrawn, because, in the words of Mr. Samuel Woods, then a Member of this House—

> "It would put the districts into very unequal positions with regard to competition one with another."

Hon. Members would see, therefore, it was not sentiment that governed this matter but competition, which was a very different thing. The supporters of this Bill said, "What we want is not to create inequality but to carry this Bill by putting all on the same level; all in the same position. We want to give them equal rights, equal facilities in all the markets of the world, and we say that

that condition of things does not exist at the present time." Making all the allowances he was prepared to make in favour of the proposals of his hon. friend, to whom in this matter he was opposed, he was prepared to say that competition would be stronger than humanity, and that was what he desired the House to understand. That was why they were even now prepared to offer and to pass in this House a Bill with a local option clause. If the hon. Member would accept such a clause there was no reason why an Eight Hours Bill should not become law in that Parliament so far as those who opposed the Bill in its present form were concerned. There was a law in that House which was even stronger than the law of humanity and that was the law of the ballot box. There were hon. Members in that House who were most anxious and desirous to indicate to the miners of England their wish to help them. There were Members who would go into the Lobby in support of this Bill which, if it were attempted to be applied to their own trade, would oppose it. For his part he should vote against it.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said the hon. Member for Gateshead had approached this question from the point of view of the men and of the employers, and on that ground he was not qualified to contend with him. He approached the question from a directly opposite point of view. He approached it from the point of view of the boys and of the nation. This was not a case of interference with freedom of contract as was stated by one hon. Member. It was a case in which the State could legitimately and properly interfere in order to prevent the degeneration of boys by their employment in work which was unfit for them, and which, by its prolonged character, injured their health. Whenever these questions of the health and welfare of the masses of the people were raised, there were persons who told the House how greatly attention to the general health and well-being of the community would injure some paticular trade. The present discussion was no exception to the rule. Whether employment in mines was injurious to the health or not could, he thought, be very well left to be discussed by hon. Gentlemen opposite who were well qualified by experience to deal with the question. He thought those who had listened to the graphic description given by the hon. Member for Monmouth of the work of these boys would require no further evidence to convince them that it was legitimate for Parliament to restrict the labour of pit boys and ensure that it should be carried on under satisfactory conditions. Fifteen years ago it was his fortune to discuss the whole question in quite a different atmosphere and assembly, in the Labour Conference at Berlin. The people who discussed the matter there were not ignorant sentimentalists who allowed kindness to override common sense, but some of the hardest-headed men in Europe. At that Conference the discussion was carried on entirely on the question of health, and how far the employment of men in mines was consistent with the national health. Continental people took a keener interest in the general health of the nation because they had to depend on the Army to defend the country, and therefore paid much greater attention to the physique of the people, and the whole Commission unanimously came to the conclusion that it was desirable that boys between the ages of thirteen and fourteen, that was to say, boys under the age of fourteen, should not be employed underground at all. He was sorry to say, however, that it took ten years to raise the age in this country from twelve to thirteen. At the time of that Conference the representatives of this country held a very proud position because they were at that time in front of the European nations, in these matters. He did not think, if there were a European Conference on the same subject now, that the British representatives would hold so authoritative a position. He was afraid it would be thrown in their teeth that they had been very slow since 1890 in effecting improvements in their legislation. He desired to support the suggestion of the necessity for a medical examination of boys before they went to work underground. There was at present no attempt whatever to protect young people who were not physically fit for the work from employment in mines.

He should cordially support the Second Reading of the Bill, but he hoped our mining reform would not stop at its provisions, but that we should do something to raise ourselves to the level of other countries to which in former days we used to set an example.

*MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said if the hon. Member for the Cambridge University would undertake to introduce a Bill to raise the age of boys from thirteen to fourteen and insist that a medical examination should take place before they were employed, he would be pleased to give the hon. Member the sanction of his name on the back of his Bill, and all the support he was capable of giving in that House. He had welcomed the Bill introduced by his right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean, and only regretted that it did not go further than it did. But his right hon. friend at that time no doubt took the line of least resistance and was glad to get what he could. At the outset he congratulated the promoters of the Bill before the House, on having secured such admirable Members to champion their cause. His hon. friend who introduced the Bill did so in a most temperate speech, and the hon. Member for West Monmouth who seconded the Motion made a valuable contribution to the debate. No one would deny that the little group in that House known as Labour Members had a very able colleague in his hon. friend. He approached this question from the standpoint of one who had actual experience as a working miner, and the cogent reasons and argument which he had adduced in support of the Bill were the result of his own actual experience. He, like his hon. friend, had also had no small measure of practical experience in mining life. He did not begin quite so early as his hon. friend, who appeared to have evaded the law, but he went down the mine as soon as he could. His attitude, therefore, towards the Bill was also the result of actual experience, and he thought if those of his hon. friends who had supported the Bill, because of their eagerness to prevent deterioration of the race had looked at the Labour representatives in the House and others who were at the present moment in the precincts of the House, they would have hesitated before they made use of the argument of physical deterioration. He was satisfied that there was not one of his hon. friends who supported or opposed this Bill who would not pit the miner, man or boy, against any man or boy in any other calling.

This Bill was not new to the House; it was an old friend, altered it might be somewhat in shape; somewhat rejuvenated and rendered more attractive to the House on that account. He did not intend to complain of his hon. friends who were supporting this Bill on account of the form in which they had deemed it advisable to present it to the House. He had always contended that the strongest line of defence which the promoters of this Bill could take was to raise the debate on the question of boys alone, because then they could appeal direct to the sentimental and humanitarian instincts of the House. It was impossible in a debate such as this to ignore the practical and economic difficulties that were in the way; however much they might be impressed by the sentimental and humanitarian aspect of the question and however much they might relegate to the background all considerations of practical and economic difficulties. Directly this Bill was passed they would come face to face with these practical and economic difficulties. He knew it was said by some, "why should we, as representatives of labour, trouble ourselves with questions such as these? Leave those questions entirely to the employers. They are matters for them to consider." But he had always considered that the best way for a workman to defend himself was to know what action his employer was likely to take, so that he could prepare his defence accordingly. He did not think it was possible to promote the interests of labour by unduly interfering with the interest of employers. That might be rank heresy to some, but it was a doctrine to which he strongly adhered. The House must remember that in this case they were dealing, not with an infantile industry, but an industry which, of its kind, was the oldest in the world. So far as he, personally, was concerned, he was speaking for a district, the North of England, which was hoary with age, and which was older than any mining industrial community in the United Kingdom. They were dealing with an industry employing above and below ground over 800,000 men and boys of all ages. Unfortunately, there were no statistics to show what was the number of boys between sixteen and eighteen years of age employed underground, but the Home Secretary, in reply to a recent Question, had stated that the total number of boys under sixteen years of age employed last year was 44,628. Of that total Northumberland and Durham employed something like 9,000. That fact had been brought before the House by the hon. Member for Gateshead, but it was of such importance that he desired to emphasise it, and especially to commend it to those who had appealed to the House to "rise above these sordid financial and economic considerations." If those Gentlemen had accepted the arrangement which was offered to them more than ten years ago, more than 35,000 of these 44,628 would have been enjoying the conditions of employment provided for in this Bill. How could hon. Gentlemen who prevented that Bill becoming law appeal to the House now to rise above "sordid financial and economic considerations," considerations which they themselves could not ten years ago free their minds from?

So far as Northumberland was concerned the present system of working the double shift was responsible for the whole of the difficulty they had. Where they had a single shift of men and boys the problem which had to be confronted was a simple one, but where they had the double-shift system such as that obtaining in Northumberland and Durham it was a serious and complex problem. In Northumberland they employed 32,500 men over the age of sixteen and 2,053 boys under that age. Supposing this Bill became law, and that for simplicity of arrangement they adopted the single shift, the immediate result would be that several thousands of workmen would be thrown out of work, and they would be confronted with a situation in which it would be found that the labour of from 12,000 to 15,000 adults would not be required owing to altered conditions. So that directly this Bill was passed they would have hundreds of men with their wives and children dependent on them thrown out of employment. Supposing they in Northumberland retained their double-shift system, which was likely if this Bill were carried, because the whole of the collieries in the North had been regulated with a view to the continuance of the double-shift system of working, and if there was any change a great deal of capital which had been sunk for the working of the double-shift system would become unproductive or absolutely lost. The problem then with which they would be confronted would be that they would want about three-quarters as many boys as they now employed, but they would want merely the labour of the boys and not that of their parents. Where could they be got? Did anyone imagine that a man who had to provide for his wife and family, however precarious his work might be, was going to give up that employment in order that he might go into a district where he could get employment for his children and not for himself? It might be said: "You have got a vast number of unemployed in your towns and cities and you could get unskilled labourers to come and do the unskilled labour in your mines." Would those who supported this Bill look with any degree of satisfaction on the possibility of unskilled labourers coming to take up responsible positions in the mines? But even then they were confronted with an economic difficulty because, assuming that they could be got, the immediate reduction of working time by one-fifth would directly affect the question of the wages of those who were employed in the mines.

The hon. Member who introduced this Bill had said it was an honest proposal on his part, and had asked the miners of the North if they did not approve of the measure to state their remedy, and had asked whether chivalry was absolutely dead among the Northumberland miners. There was as much chivalry in Northumberland now as there was in the days of Chevy Chase. The hon. Gentleman asked why these boys should be denied the privilege of living the life this Bill would give them, but the hon. Gentleman apparently forgot that he and his friends refused ten years ago to take an arrangement which would have given them all they were now asking for. His hon. friend the Member for West Monmouth had drawn a touching picture of life as he had seen it in South Wales. He did not question the accuracy of his hon. friend's description. He himself had no experience of mining in that locality. but certainly the description was in no way applicable to the mines in Northumberland and Durham. They had nothing that could be for a moment described in anything like the terms in which his hon. friend described the conditions of South Wales. On all questions of policy the miners of Northumberland were in perfect agreement with the Miners Federation of Great Britain except on this one particular point. But for this Resolution they would probably find within the next few days a resolution passed by the miners of Northumberland asking that they should become affiliated with the Miners Federation of Great Britain. They were now asked to say what remedy they had to suggest. The first would be that the northern counties Durham and Northumberland should be exempted. Failing that, he would support a measure giving a working week of forty-eight hours. There was not another industry claiming to have established an eight hours day that had done more than provide a working week of forty-eight hours. On every other point of policy the northern miners agreed with the Federation, and they had made strenuous efforts to whittle down differences of opinion to the lowest point, but without success. With the acceptance of either of the suggestions he had made opposition from the northern miners would cease.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that when his hon. friend referred to his present condition as evidence that a mining life was not as dangerous as had been represented, he only showed that there were exceptional instances. The argument appeared to be a weighty one, but when examined it came to very little. Supposing the hon. Gentleman was one of sixteen or seventeen survivors out of a Japanese regiment which had just been in action he might as well point to himself as an instance of the safety of a soldier's life in time of war. The hon. Gentleman was one of the happy survivors. The miners' leaders were exceptional men who had forced themselves to the front and kept their physique.

The debate was opened against the Bill by the hon. Member for Tynemouth, who addressed a dispassionate and calm argument to the House upon what might be called the theory as well as the practice of the Bill, but in his (Sir Charles Dilke's) opinion this Bill erred only in being far too moderate in its proposals. The principle of what the Member for Tynemouth called "interfering with freedom of contract" in the case of young persons up to the age of eighteen was one that had been adopted in most factory and workshops legislation in all countries of the world, and he confessed that if the Labour Members who brought forward this Bill were to be forced to deal only with such theoretical questions they were very badly treated—for, after all, these arguments really had no application to a measure of this kind. No doubt this Bill had grown out of the measure referred to by the hon. Member for Gateshead as having been before the House in a previous session. The hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division had declared that he did not charge anyone with dishonesty in connection with the Bill: he admitted, in fact, that he looked upon it as an honest Bill, whereas the hon. Member for Tynemouth had suggested that he looked on it as dishonest. The argument used against the Bill was that it was really an attack on adult labour while it professed to deal only with labour under eighteen. No one, so far as he knew, had ever attributed dishonesty to the promoters of the factory and workshops legislation in the past? Was the hon. Member for Tynemouth in favour of the factory and workshops legislation?

MR. HARRIS: Yes.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said in that case he could not understand how the hon. Member could allege violation of freedom of contract against this Bill. It was a perfectly well-known fact that in many factory trades the work of adult males was affected by similar restrictions.

MR. HARRIS: I have no objection to such violation of principle of freedom of contract as that to which the right hon. Baronet is referring. My arguments were based on the health and well-being of these young men.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE continued that in all factories the hours of work of persons under eighteen were limited, and it was notorious that in most cases those limitations affected adult labour in the same trade. This Bill was defensible, and the adoption of the age of eighteen was defensible upon general factory lines. The hon. Member for Gateshead had asked why the age had been altered from twenty-one to eighteen, but surely the answer to that was clear; it had been changed because eighteen was the age named throughout factory and workshop legislation. As regarded dangerous callings, Parliament had always gone in the direction of putting restrictions on labour, and the Home Office had power to deal with dangerous trades and make regulations which affected directly the labour of adult males. There was surely a strong case for the Bill, because he thought the figures showed that it dealt with a specially dangerous occupation.

He had a great desire to meet the practical arguments of the hon. Member for Gateshead and the hon. Member for Mid-Durham. He confessed he had little patience with the theoretical arguments that had been addressed to them, while he had great patience for the arguments of those hon. Members. But they must not allow them to make the House believe, what they no doubt themselves believed, *i.e.*, that the case was less grave than it really was. The statistics revealed a far worse state of things than would be gathered from listening to the speeches of his hon. friends. After all, his hon. friend the Member for the Wansbeck Division had narrowed the whole question to the Northumberland and Durham difficulty, which was that whereas they had two shifts of hewers they had only one shift of boys. The North of England United Coal Trade Association had issued a circular in which they dealt with that point, and they had put forward the three alternatives to which allusion had been made in his hon. friend's speech. He proposed to quote from that circular because if they took their statement of fact from the enemy they would not be accused of manufacturing it for themselves. The words used in the circular were

> "In some . . . the actual working time is even as low as five hours. . . . Such short hours of labour are probably unknown in any other employment throughout the world."

Then they told the men that under any change these very short hours would be increased. They admitted that the boys were below ground ten hours, and went on to say—

> "Various efforts have been made from time to time to devise a scheme by which the hours of young persons might be reduced, but without success . . . additional boys would be required . . . it was doubtful whether these could be obtained."

The circular did not put that point very strongly, but on a former occasion it was more forcibly pressed and strong statements were made as to the extent to which the coal trade would be depressed by the difficulty of getting boys. He did not believe that in the two populous counties there would be any difficulty at all. It was impossible to accept the suggestion that there should be local option, or that Durham and Northumberland should be exempted from the Bill, because there would be the hottest opposition on the part of the coal trade to any differentiation between one part of the country and another. No one had proposed local option in factory legislation.

MR. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid): Labour in factories is uniform.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE contended that labour in factories varied infinitely more than in mines. No one, he submitted, could suggest that that was not so in the glass and tinplate trades, as contrasted with the cotton trade, in all three of which the labour of young persons was employed. The offer of a forty-eight hours week was more friendly in its character. But he understood the intention was to crowd the forty-eight hours into five days in the week. That would simply mean that one day in fourteen would be saved to the young people, because at present they worked five days in one week and six days in the next. That plan, he feared, would prove fallacious, for it would not give a real reduction of hours, which they all admitted to be far too long. But there was a plan by which he thought some sort of accommodation might ultimately be arrived at between the two sides. He was quite sure there was no desire to press the counties of Northumberland and Durham to any instant changes which would be detrimental to their industry, and the plan which had been the solution of this difficulty in France, and which was likely to be followed in other Continental countries, applied not only to boy but to adult labour. That plan, of a gradual legal reduction of hours by steps, presented, he thought, the most favourable chance of a solution in this country.

He was bound to say that the latter portion of the speech of the hon. Member for Tynemouth seemed tinged with a little flavour of fiscalitis, and he would like to remind the hon. Member of a famous sentence in a speech delivered by his Leader, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham at Greenock, in which he referred to the coal trade, and said all these restrictions

> "Entail expense or raise the cost of production. The products of other countries . . . not surrounded by any similar legislation . . . free from all similar cost."

He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University that in this matter we had stood still and allowed other countries to pass us. Let them take the case of their nearest neighbour in the coal trade—France. There, in 1892, a law was passed which treated coal mining for persons under eighteen years as a dangerous trade, and gave the French Minister of Commerce powers similar to those possessed by our own Home Office in the case of dangerous trades to make orders and regulations. Then by the Decree of 1893 for boys under sixteen there was a limit of eight hours below ground, and by a stroke of the pen that age could be raised to eighteen. On the other hand, we protected male young persons in factories, and did not protect them when working in coal mines under ground. He was confident that if this country would go forward with factory legislation, Continental countries would willingly go with them. Our mining legislation was falling into arrears. Legislation with regard to metalliferous mines had been promised since 1886, while the last coal mine legislation was in 1896, when a number of most valuable clauses had to be dropped for want of time. What was the nature of the work at which this Bill struck? It was the too long work of young persons underground. That was the crux of the whole question; it was extending to coal mines protection which existed already in factories. What was the nature of the employment thus proposed to be dealt with? Again he would quote from the circular issued by their opponents. They stated that the boy acts as a—

> "Drawer or putter, filling wagons, and pushing the wagons. Many of the boys are under the age of eighteen. Another class underground, where a very large proportion of the number employed are under eighteen, are employed on haulage."

The consideration which would weigh most with the House was the question of the danger of the trade to young persons. In most parts of the country, certainly the heaviest proportion of accidents that occurred in coal mines to persons who would be protected by this Bill were those classed as haulage accidents. It was useless for them to deal with the statistics of non-fatal accidents. The Home Office itself admitted that those statistics were worthless. But the fatal accidents were carefully reported, and from the statistics of these for 1904 it appeared that, while the total haulage accidents in Northumberland were nineteen, twelve of them occurred to boys under eighteen years of age and only seven to persons over eighteen. That was a stupendous death rate in proportion to those employed. In Durham the case was not so bad. The haulage accidents for the whole country were, under eighteen years of age, fifty-three, and over eighteen, 165. In the Midlands the number killed under eighteen was twelve, and over eighteen it was fourteen. The case was different in South Wales, because the young persons were employed by the hewers and were subject to accidents from falls. These young persons did not appear to be employed in the haulage; that work was in the hands of adults. He did not know that it was because of the danger of the trade, but the statistics looked like it, and he commended the example to his hon. friends from Durham as showing that these young persons ought not to be employed in such dangerous trades and places and as an argument in favour of this Bill. But the danger was not confined to Northumberland and Durham. There were haulage accidents in Lancashire, where he was afraid the hours of work were excessive. In a previous year cases of boys working fourteen hours a day were mentioned by his hon. friend the Member for the Rotherham Division (Sir William Holland); he believed the same state of things still obtained, and there was a tendency to violate even the provisions of the existing law. The Members for Northumberland had never defended this work of young boys to the House. He was sorry to notice something like an attempt to defend it in the speech of the Member for Gateshead. There had, however, always been some slight difference between Northumberland and Durham in that respect. In 1887 the hon. Member for Morpeth and the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division took one course, and the hon. Member for Mid-Durham another.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Durham, Mid.) was understood to say that he was not in the House on that occasion.

Sir CHARLES DILKE said that at all events there had been a tendency to a little difference of opinion between the two counties. The Northumberland representatives had always admitted that it was impossibe to defend the system under which the boys worked. The words of the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division were not so clear as were those of the hon. Member for Morpeth, but the former had at any rate expressed his approval of what the latter said, and he was not likely to recede from that position now. The hon. Member for Morpeth spoke of the employment of boys for ten hours a day as a very bad system, and said—

> "I would gladly vote for a limitation even to eight hours a day,"

and the hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division said that the ground had been well covered by his hon. friend. He thought, therefore, that the mover and seconder of the Bill were justified in asking the Northumberland representatives, as they were not satisfied with the present state of things, what remedy they proposed. The hon. Member for the Wansbeck Division offered a choice of two remedies—a forty-eight hours week or a Bill for the country with the exception of the two counties of Northumberland and Durham. Local option was not practicable; therefore the offer was substantially one of a forty-eight hours week. It had been said that the supporters of this Bill viewed with equanimity the sufferings which had been continued by their refusal to accept the principle of local option. That was not the case; it was well known that there would not be a ghost of a chance of passing a local option measure through Parliament. But a forty-eight hours week simply meant that the forty-eight hours would be worked in five days, so that there would practically be no limitation of the hours now worked, which the hon. Member himself admitted to be too long. The hon. Member had declared that he had made strenuous efforts to reduce the hours; he had admitted that there was a case for reform, and the figures of fatal accidents quoted showed how tremendous a case it was; he therefore asked him whether he would not meet the supporters of the Bill by agreeing that the reform should be introduced at all events step by step, the counties of Northumberland and Durham being given time during the next few years to reorganise the existing system.

***Mr. JOSEPH WALTON** (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said he had the honour of representing 10,000 coal miners who were unanimously in favour of the Bill before the House, which proposed to regulate the hours of labour of boys under eighteen years of age, and, therefore, was not open to the objection of being a Parliamentary interference with adult labour. The question with which the House had to deal was one affecting some 50,000 or 60,000 lads who were being employed for ten hours a day in a vitiated atmosphere, deprived of the daylight and sunshine which were so necessary for their proper physical and mental development, while the hours of their fathers were only seven per day. It was hardly creditable to the fathers of the lads in Northumberland and Durham that they should not join in the endeavour to get this wrong redressed. There could be no question as to the dangerous and arduous character of the work in which the boys were engaged, or as to the absolute justification of legislative interference. The law prohibited the employment of lads under sixteen years of age for more than fifty-four hours per week; this Bill merely sought so to change the law that lads under eighteen years of age should not be employed for more than eight hours out of any twenty-four. Boys under thirteen years of age could not be employed underground at all, but directly they reached that age they left school and went underground to earn their daily bread. He submitted that after boys of from thirteen to fifteen years of age had been roused out of their sleep at five o'clock in the morning and had worked underground for ten hours, they were not in a condition, mentally or physically, to continue their education as they ought to do in the evening classes; therefore, from the educational point of view, this Bill ought to be supported. He also supported the measure on the ground of the physical deterioration which was shown to exist to an alarming extent in connection with the recruiting for the South African War. The pit lads of Northumberland and Durham were stated to be sturdy fellows, but how much sturdier and healthier they would be if they enjoyed reasonable hours of labour! He was surprised at the opposition to this measure of the miners of Northumberland and Durham, because one of the objects of the Northumberland Miners Association, as set forth in their rules and regulations in 1863, was to—

> "Shorten the hours of labour of boys to eight per day."

And that was exactly the object of this Bill. Moreover, the hon. Member for Mid-Durham, at a Miners' Conference in 1893, moved a resolution setting forth the desirability of shortening the hours of labour of boys. Being personally interested to a small extent in collieries in Northumberland and Durham, he had naturally considered the effect this Bill would have if applied to those collieries. He admitted that it would not be so easy to apply the Bill in those counties as in other parts of the country, but he thought there was a tendency to exaggerate the difficulties in the way of its successful application. A reasonable course would be to allow the mineowners of Durham and Northumberland time to remodel their plant above and below ground where necessary to enable them to comply with the requirements of the Bill. What was the practical question that had to be faced? At present one shift of boys working ten hours brought to bank the produce of two shifts of men, so that the problem reduced itself to the possibility of making arrangements whereby there might be brought to bank in eight hours that which was now brought to bank in ten. He was of opinion that by a greater application of mechanical haulage underground in connection with electrical motive power and other changes of that kind the difficulty with regard to the number of boys could be surmounted. As to the cost of coal being increased by diminution of output, he did not believe that in practice that would occur. It might be necessary in certain old collieries to put down more powerful winding engines so that a greater weight of coal could be raised at each draw, and in other cases to fit up a winding in the second shaft so that the winding in the main shaft could be applied solely to bringing coal to bank instead of time being occupied in raising or lowering men. In these ways and by using a larger number of coal tubs he thought the difficulties in the way of the successful application of the Bill to Northumberland and Durham could be overcome. Certainly, so far as his small interest was concerned, he should have no objection whatever to complying with the requirements. There was always a tendency to exaggerate the difficulties when changes of this character were brought before Parliament and the country. When the Workmen's Compensation Bill was brought forward it was contended that it would increase the cost of coal by 3d. or 4d. per ton, but as a matter of fact the increase had not been more than two-thirds of a penny. Manufacturers were now being urged to oppose the present Bill because of the extra cost in which they would be involved for coal for their industries, but he predicted that after the Bill had been in operation for a few years those who now opposed it most strenuously would be astonished at the little difference it made either in the diminution of output, increased cost of production, or increased cost to the consumer. He most heartily supported the Bill.

MR. COCHRANE said he had listened with the very greatest interest to the whole of the debate which had taken place, and he thought the House might congratulate themselves that in a question such as this, which excited such strong feeling on both sides, the debate had been one of the greatest moderation. The speech delivered by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean, as all his speeches were, was full of interesting facts and carefully prepared statistics, which he had no doubt were perfectly accurate. But he thought that full of information as was the speech of the right hon. Baronet, the House had listened with the greatest interest to those speeches from men who had themselves worked in the pit, and who understood the work of the pit, such as the hon. Member for Northumberland,, and the hon. Member who seconded the Motion.

He desired briefly to examine one or two features of the Bill. He apologised to the House if he did not make himself very readily understood, as he was suffering from a cold which he had caught, not in one of those pits of which they had heard, but in the division lobby the preceding night. The Bill was a short Bill, much shorter than they had been accustomed recently to see; there were two main points in it. It dealt in the first clause with the labour of young persons under eighteen years of age, and suggested that they should not work for more than eight hours in any one day. The second clause was of a different character, and had not yet been alluded to in the discussion. The object of it was that an hours-of-work book should be kept at each pit.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said there was a special objection to that clause, inasmuch as it seemed to lie outside the object of the Bill, and he had been authorised by the promoters to abandon it.

MR. COCHRANE said that in that case he would certainly not deal any further with it. He had been rather surprised that nobody got up in its defence.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that no one had opposed it that day, although it was mentioned in a circular which had been issued.

MR. COCHRANE thought it would not in any way strengthen the idea which this House would entertain as to the manner in which the Bill had been drawn that one of the clauses in it should be withdrawn before the Bill had been read a second time. The important clause was undoubtedly Clause 1, which ostensibly aimed at extending the operation of the Coal Mines Regulation Act of 1887, and the Prohibition of Child Labour Underground Act, 1900. Under the present law a boy over thirteen and under sixteen years of age could not be employed in any mine below ground for more than fifty-four hours a week, or ten hours a day. The Bill aimed at raising the limitation of age from sixteen years to eighteen years of age, and at lowering the number of hours which a boy might work from ten to eight in each day. He thought a strong case ought to be made out before Parliament should sanction in so important an industry drastic changes which would have such far-reaching effects. Either it must displace the boys, or it would be necessary to alter entirely the method in which many of the mines throughout the country were worked. In the mines of Northumberland and Durham, the working of which had been so fully explained, it appeared that one set of boys did the hauling and the pumping work of two shifts of miners. If that system were changed it would undoubtedly dislocate the methods in which these mines were worked, and one of two things would have to be done. Either the mineowners would have to employ a different class of labour—adult labour—to do the work now done by boys, and displace the boys, or they would have to reorganise the entire methods by which they worked these important industries throughout the country.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON: Improve your haulage.

Mr. COCHRANE said it was all very well for the hon. Member to say "improve your haulage," but did he not recognise, able as he himself was, that there sat behind him other hon. Members also interested in the mining industry, and as experienced as himself, who had not been able to suggest that by any means of increasing the facilities for haulage they could do away with the employment of boys? The employment of these boys was an apprenticeship. They were sons of miners, and hoped afterwards to become coal hewers themselves, and if they were not given the opportunity when they were sufficiently young of learning their trade, there would gradually arise a shortage of that particular kind of labour, without which the industry could not be carried on.

This House had never been unwilling to listen to arguments addressed to it on the grounds that the health and education and safety of young people were involved. The House had always been ready and willing to listen to such arguments, but he thought they ought to be amply proved. Subjects of this kind had been inquired into many times before in this House, and, by the authority of this House, Royal Commissions had sat, and Blue-books had been issued, many of which were never read. He asked the House to contrast the picture in a Blue-book drawn by a Royal Commission which sat in the year 1842, nearly seventy years ago. They drew a lurid picture of what a coal mine was then, when women and children and men, all mixed up together, were working in the coal mines of the country. The picture was of little boys of seven and eight years of age—eight years appearing to have been the regular age at which they went down the pit, regularly employed for twelve or fourteen hours a day. Then, no doubt, a good case could be made out, and was made out, for shortening the hours and raising the age at which these young people should go into the pits. That Report spoke of the bad ventilation of the mines; of hutches of coal not drawn on rails, but drawn by boys on the slips on muddy roads; of children toiling on all fours in darkness. There was described in the Report—

> "A condition which renders their existence the most weary of all the pilgrimages of this journey through life,"

and again it spoke of the—

> "Damp, heated, and unwholesome atmosphere . . . the picture is presented of daily physical oppression and systematic slavery."

No one would say that anything of that sort existed in the management of mines at the present time. Thanks to the influence of public opinion, thanks a great deal to the legitimate influence of hon. Members who were at the head of some of our great trades unions, thanks to sanitary and scientific knowledge, and thanks to the efforts of this House, and, he might say, to the efforts of hon. Members who belonged to the same Party as himself, this evil condition of matters had been very greatly improved. What was the condition of affairs now? There was improved ventilation, good roads, and shorter hours. Mr. Hedley, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, wrote in 1902—

> "In Northumberland, after working eight or nine hours, allowing for stoppages, boys seem to be perfectly happy and contented, and as soon as they get out of the mine they lark about as if they had never been down."

That was how they should like these boys to live, and many Members who lived in mining districts must be aware of the splendid physique of the coal-miners. They were some of the greatest athletes in the country, and the specimens of them who came to the House of Commons did not show that physical deterioration to which the hon. Member who last addressed the House alluded.

Mr. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Glamorganshire, Rhondda): They left it in time.

Mr. COCHRANE said they also had their football clubs, and he had seen them come up from the pit and soon afterwards give a very good account of other teams not engaged in coal mining. If the hon. Member wished to recruit for himself a regiment of hardy fellows who would go anywhere and do everything, he ventured to say that if he went to one of the Ayrshire pitheads and picked out almost every man who came up, he would find he had men under his command who would be equal to any duty that fell upon them. As somebody had put it, with regard to the Ayrshire Militia, they were such hearty fellows they could not kill them with a hammer. It was assumed because these young fellows worked below ground for so many hours that their lot must be a very arduous one. Many seemed to suppose that a miner's work underground must be very unhealthy, but the fact was that the conditions in many factories were no better than, if so good as, they were in a coal mine; and he showed by statistics that both the mortality and accidents among miners compared very favourably with other industries. Dr. Tatham, in his last decennial Report on Occupational Mortality, states that—

> "Among colliers generally the death rates are below the standard at ages twenty-five to fifty-five, but above it at the other age groups. Their mortality figure is lower than that of occupied males generally by 3 per cent.; and when it is considered that deaths from accident in this trade are to those in other occupations in the ratio of 247 to 100, it follows that, generally speaking, a miner's occupation is above the average in healthfulness."

The hon. Member for Derbyshire had called attention to the diseases to which miners were liable. The prevalence of the disease known as miners' worm on the Continent had led the Home Office to make very careful inquiries, and he was able to state that in no single case had the disease yet appeared in one of our coal mines, although one or two cases had occurred in the tin mines in Cornwall. With regard to the peculiar affection of the eye known as nystagmus, it was not applicable to the present Bill, because the injury to the eye, or whatever it was, did not affect other than those who were engaged in the actual hewing of the coal. If the hon. Member would look up the Report of His Majesty's Inspector for the Midland district for 1890 he would find there a quotation from Dr. Snell, who had made a special study of nystagmus for many years. In a paper read by Dr. Snell in 1884 before the Opthalmological Society of the United Kingdom he said—

> "The affection depends for its causation on the position the miner assumes whilst at work. It is with the coal getting that the nystagmus is associated. I recollect no case of nystagmus occurring in a miner whose work is not of this character. The disease is attributed to the oblique direction the miners' eyes assume while he lies on his side doing his work."

He thought he had shown that there was no foundation for the arguments with which the hon. Member for Derbyshire had attempted to alarm the House. Of course, serious accidents occurred, and who could help feeling grieved when one of these young fellows was taken off. What he contended was that these accidents were incidental to the work. These young fellows had to go and serve their apprenticeship in the pit. It was true that accidents were more frequent during the first few years of their apprenticeship, but, in his opinion, if they were not allowed to go down into the pit until they were five years older they would be still more liable to those accidents than when they were younger and possessed more of that quickness of perception which was peculiar to young people. Another hon. Member had pointed out how necessary it was that these young people should have more leisure for education, and he spoke of the long hours as preventing them from having that leisure. The shortening of hours for young persons under the Shop Hours Act and the Factory Acts, he submitted, had no analogy to the present case, because there the weekly limit was not fifty-four hours, but seventy-four and about sixty-six hours respectively. Therefore, from the point of view of education, these young fellows had as good an opportunity as the lad in a shop or factory. These rather exaggerated statements were made with the object of getting hon. Members to pass into law not this present Bill, but another Bill of a totally different character. This was essentially an Eight Hours Bill for boys, but did anyone doubt that the result of it would be an Eight Hours Bill for men? The hon. Member for Mid-Derbyshire admitted that this was not a frontal attack, but he had put the boys in the front line and was concealing himself behind the women and children. Personally, he had always been in favour of an eight hours day for miners, but that was not a question which should be settled by a side issue such as this. It was a question of such vital importance to the industries concerned that it should only be dealt with after the fullest consideration in the House. After listening to the debate very carefully and studying the measure in its entirety, he could not say that in his opinion any case had been made out for this exceptional treatment. So far as the Government were concerned, they did not regard the Bill as involving a Party issue in any sense, but, following the precedent of past years, they would accept no responsibility for the measure and exercise no pressure upon their followers.

Sir JAMES JOICEY (Durham, Chester-le-Street) said the object of this Bill, like those which had preceded it, was to bring Durham and Northumberland into harmony with other mining districts where they were anxious to obtain an eight hours day. His constituents, the larger part of whom were miners, who had given him their confidence for twenty years, stated that the miners of Northumberland and Durham had been trained under the double-shift system, and they believed that that system was not only the most economical, but the best for their own interests. Under that system their boys worked the same hours as the boys in any other part of the country. There was no analogy whatever between the mines of this country and the factories. Factories as a rule were built upon the same lines and worked by the same methods, and could, therefore, be placed under the same rules and regulations, but mines were altogether different. Had anyone ever seen two mines alike? One might be hard to work and another soft, one might have a bad roof and another a good roof and so on. [An Hon. Member: You often find all that in the same pit.] Under these circumstances they could not apply the same regulations. In Northumberland that was why a double shift was worked, and would continue to be worked, so long as the miners had control over it. It was perfectly clear that under the Factory Acts the rule was not eight hours as proposed by this Bill for young persons under eighteen, for it stated that employment for young persons and women should begin at six o'clock in the morning and end at six at night, or seven in the morning and seven at night, or eight in the morning and eight at night; and they had one-and-a-half hours off for meals. Therefore that Act was not an argument in favour of an Eight Hours Bill for young persons employed in mines. He did not think there was a single case in which the Home Office had interfered, even in dangerous trades, in the direction of limiting the number of hours to eight per day. It was impossible to deny that coal mining was a dangerous occupation, and, naturally, every employer who recognised his responsibility was anxious to adopt any measure, consistent with the working of the industry, that was likely to prevent the calamities from which it suffered. But he was afraid that, notwithstanding all the anxiety shown by both workmen and employers to prevent accidents, coal mining could never be carried out without accidents occurring.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) pointed out that the death rate from accidents among boys employed in mines was higher in Northumberland and Durham than in the rest of the country. It was one in 612 boys employed in Northumberland and Durham, and in the rest of the country it was only one in 1,000 boys employed. That was a strong case which demanded the serious attention of the House.

Sir JAMES JOICEY said he did not accept the hon. Gentleman's figures. Where were they obtained?

Mr. KEIR HARDIE: Out of the Blue-book.

Sir JAMES JOICEY said he had taken the figures for the whole country, and he found that there were 676,000 persons employed underground in 1903, 45,000 of these were under the age of sixteen years, 7,400 were between thirteen and fourteen years of age, and 37,000 between fourteen and sixteen years. There were fifty-one persons fatally injured under sixteen years of age, or a total of 1·12 per thousand, which worked out at one in every 887 persons. In the case of persons over sixteen years of age there were 866 fatal accidents or 1·37 per thousand, or one in every 729. Those were the figures for the whole country. He did not deny that this was a dangerous occupation, but he could not agree that Durham and Northumberland had more accidents amongst the boys than any other part of the country. He was rather surprised that his hon. friend should have raised that question, because it happened that in Durham and Northumberland shorter hours were worked than in any other part of the country. It was to the interests of all those employed that they should work the double shift, because the boys, after attaining the age of twenty-one, had shorter hours than in any other part of the country.

Mr. JOHN WILSON (Falkirk Burghs) said that in Scotland during the last four or five years eight hours had been universal.

Sir JAMES JOICEY replied that in Durham and Northumberland the average was seven hours from bank to bank, and he challenged contradiction to the statement that the miners in Northumberland and Durham worked shorter hours than in any other part of the country. When the young miners saw the advantages they were coming into when they reached the age of twenty-one, naturally they took the advantages with the disadvantages, and then their position was better than that of any other miners in the country. Those were the views of his constituency, and that was why they refused to be driven to adopt the system of South Wales. He doubted whether many of the mines with thin seams could be worked profitably if they were driven into adopting the same system as now existed in Wales and Yorkshire and other parts of the country. Scotland had mines with very large seams, and they could be worked more economically than in Durham. As a competitor, he knew exactly the position of affairs in Scotland. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University had stated that they were behind Germany in this matter.

Sir JOHN GORST said that what he stated was that they were behind a great many Continental countries.

Sir JAMES JOICEY said he believed it was quite exceptional for any boy to go down a mine in Germany before he was fourteen years of age.

Sir JOHN GORST: I believe the age is sixteen.

Sir JAMES JOICEY said he yielded to no hon. Member of the House or to any representative of the mining industry in his desire to reduce as far as possible the hours of boys in mines, and if the difficulty could only be overcome he felt sure there would be no hesitation on the part of Durham and Northumberland in accepting such a Bill. At present they were attached to the double-shift system in Northumberland and Durham because it suited them best, and they would never be driven to accept the single-shift system unless they were convinced that it would improve their condition.

Mr. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said that in 1903 there were 9,187 boys under sixteen years of age employed in the two districts of Durham and Newcastle, and the number of deaths was fifteen, which was only at the rate of one in 683.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 190; Noes, 132. (Division List No. 64.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Austin, Sir John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst

Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H(Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Grant, Corrie
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helder, Augustus
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford. W.)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Labouchere, Henry
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal. W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lowther, Rt HnJW(Cum., Penr.
Lundon, W.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
M'Hugh, Patrick A.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N,
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick, (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N)
O'Conor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parrott, William
Perks, Robert William
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Rickett, J. Compton
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robinson, Brooke
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stanley, Rt Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Webb, Colonel William George
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Henry J. (York. W.R.
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, SirJT. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Jacoby and Mr. Thomas Richards.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Baird, John George Alexander
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald (Leeds.)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir MichaelHicks
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Bowles, Lt. Col. H. F. (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John

Cameron, Robert
Campbell, Rt.Hon.J.A(Glasgow
Campbell,J.H.M.(DublinUniv.)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Colomb, Rt.Hon.Sir John C.R
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cubitt, Hon Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke,Rt Hon Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon A de Tatton
Elliot, Hon A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants., W.
Fenwick, Charles
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finlay,Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Gordon, Hon.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene,SirE.W.(B'rySEdm'nds
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Midd'x
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Heath,Arthur Howard (Hanley
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie,-Lieut.-General
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson,John Grant(Yorks.N.R
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ. (Portsmouth
Maconochie, A.W.
Malcolm, Ian
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E.(Wigt'n)
Maxwell,W.J.H. (Dumfriesshir
Milvain, Thomas
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Murray, Colr Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Paultonn, James Mellor
Pease, J.A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos.Myles
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,RtHnJ Parker (Lanarks)
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot,Rt.Hon.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Thorburn, Sir Walter
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. W.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Wentworth, Bruce C. Vernon
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Leverton Harris.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time and committed to a Committee of the Whole House for Friday next.

NEW BILLS.

TRUST INVESTMENT.

Bill to amend the Law as to the investment of Trust Funds in municipal and other similar securities, and as to the investment of any money which local authorities are authorised or required to invest, ordered to be brought in by Sir Albert Rollit and Sir James Woodhouse.

TRUST INVESTMENT BILL.

"To amend the Law as to the investment of Trust Funds in municipal and other similar securities, and as to the investment of any money which local authorities are authorised or required to invest," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 104.]

COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

Bill to abolish Compulsory Vaccination, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Sir John Rolleston, Mr. Channing, Mr. Corrie Grant, and Mr. Levy.

COMPULSORY VACCINATION BILL.

"To abolish Compulsory Vaccination," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 105.]

VACCINATION (No. 2).

Bill to amend the Vaccination Laws, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Thomas Bayley, Sir John Rolleston, Mr. Channing, Mr. Corrie Grant, and Mr. Levy.

VACCINATION (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Vaccination Laws," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 106.]

DOGS (PROTECTION).

Bill for the prohibition of Experiments upon Dogs, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Ellis Griffith, Colonel Lockwood, Colonel Sandys, Mr. Channing, Mr. Field, Mr. Tomkinson, and Mr. Weir.

DOGS (PROTECTION) BILL.

"For the prohibition of Experiments upon Dogs," presented, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 107.]

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

On the Motion for the adjournment of the House,

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) asked when it was proposed to set up the Public Accounts Committee. He did not admit for a moment that the consideration of the South African commissariat scandal should be adjourned until that Committee had dealt with the matter. But it was a singular thing for the Secretary of State for War to get up at Question time and shelter himself in regard to this matter by saying that he could not answer any Questions until the Public Accounts Committee had reported, and then that there should be even a day's delay in the nomination of the Committee by a colleague of the right hon. Gentleman on the Treasury Bench. In his opinion, the Public Accounts Committee ought to be set up at the very beginning of the session, and he wished to know definitely what date would be fixed for its nomination.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) said that he would have proposed the setting up of this Committee before, except for one reason—namely, that one or two Members were doubtful about serving until they knew whether a separate day would be given for the discussion of the Report of the Committee. Now, on account of what passed last night, he thought the House would agree that it was desirable that the Committee should be set up at once. He had handed in the notice at the Table that afternoon, and the Motion setting up the Committee would be down for Monday at the conclusion of the sitting. It would be composed of the same Members as were nominated last year, and he trusted, therefore, that each division of the House would allow it to be passed without objection after midnight.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): Has the hon. Member for King's Lynn consented to serve?

*SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD said that he had written to the hon. Member for King's Lynn and told him the circumstances, and that he proposed to nominate him. Of course, if the hon. Member did not get the day he asked for he might ask to be discharged, in which case another Member would be substituted. But with a view to getting the Committee appointed as soon as possible, so that it might examine the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, he had put down the names of last year's Committee.

Adjourned at fourteen minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 20th March, 1905.

TOOK THE OATH.

The Earl of Darnley took the oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—Leven's Patent—(Petition for Bill).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

McConnell's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Witnesses ordered to attend on Tuesday the 28th instant.

Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways Bill [H.L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 7th instant, discharged, and Bill committed.

Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [H.L.]; Dearne Valley Railway Bill [H.L.]; Truro Water Bill [H.L.]; Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Hay (*E. Kinnoul*) be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Earl Beauchamp; read, and agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Order (No. 1) Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^a; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

General report by the Chief-Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland, for the year 1904.

NAVY (NEW SCHEME OF NAVAL TRAINING). SELECTION OF CANDIDATES FOR NOMINATION AS NAVAL CADETS.

Further reports of members of the Interview Committee.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Return for the month of January, 1905.

AFRICA (No. 2), 1905.

Report on the possibilities of cotton-growing in the East Africa Protectorate for 1904 (in continuation of No. 606. "Miscellaneous Series").

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACTS, 1897 AND 1900.

Paper respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of Friday last), and to be printed. (No. 32.)

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Bill (on Motion) (by leave of the House) withdrawn.

WHALE FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

Read 2^a (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

TRAINING COLLEGES IN SCOTLAND.

*Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH rose to "call attention to the Minute of the Committee of Council on Education in Scotland, of date January 30th, 1905, providing for the establishment of committees for the training of teachers; and to ask the Vice-President of the Committee whether the transference of training colleges indicated in Article IX. will, in all cases, be permanent and irrevocable; and, if so, what is to be the guarantee for the permanence of the policy outlined in the Minute; whether any more definite indication of the principles by which payment for purchase or rent of premises dealt with in Article IX. will be determined than is set forth in that article can be given; whether, under Article XII., the representatives will be chosen by the constituent body described as a 'church or denomination' or by the committee, and what relative proportion they will bear to the total number of the committee; whether the regulations indicated in Article XVII. of the Minute have been drafted and have received the sanction of the Government, and whether they can be laid on the Table of this House; and to ask whether, under all the circumstances, the Government will agree to suspend any action under the Minute until the Scotch Education Bill has become law." He said, My Lords, I do not think any apology is needed on my part for bringing this matter before the House, because I think I shall be able to convince your Lordships before I sit down that very important issues are involved, or at any rate may be involved, in the policy of the Scotch Education Department which is outlined in this Minute. I have put down a series of Questions on the Paper which look somewhat formidable, but I can assure your Lordships that they cover the whole of the ground which I shall traverse to-night, and that there is nothing in my mind which is not shown by the Questions on the Paper. Before I actually say a few words in explanation of them I would like to observe that I am not quite certain whether your Lordships really understand the technical position in which the House is placed by the presentation of this Minute. As I understand, it is the claim of the Scotch Education Department that over the policy outlined in this Minute Parliament has no power, except what may be given by the financial control of the other House; in other words, I do not suppose that any vote on the part of this House would have the slightest effect in changing the policy outlined in the Minute.

As I understand, the Minute is not laid on the Table of this House in pursuance of any statute or of any obligation whatever imposed on the Scotch Education Department either by direct enactment or even by custom. The Minute is laid on the Table solely as an act of grace on the part of the Department, and simply to inform Parliament and the public of the policy they desire to pursue. If I am correctly informed in that, it seems to be a very large demand indeed on the part of the Department, and very greatly to accentuate the importance of the new departure which is being made in this way; because it follows, if the Department as now constituted can outline this new policy of its own motion, that Parliament, or at any rate this House, has no real guarantee that the policy which is laid down now for the first time in this Minute will be of a permanent or even of any enduring effect at all. So far as the general policy of the Minute is concerned, I have no fault to find with it in so far as it is intended to improve the facilities for the training of teachers, and to bring that training in even more close connection with the Universities than it at present is. It not only has my hearty support, but I claim that it is only in that respect developing and strengthening and, perhaps, improving the policy which I myself had the privilege of laying down and acting upon during the years that I was in control of the Department itself.

I venture to say also that probably very few of your Lordships are really aware how far this connection between the Universities and the training of teachers has already gone in Scotland. I believe I am not wrong in saying that of those who are passing through the curriculum to fit them for the training of teachers, both male and female, a very large proportion are now receiving part of their training in University classes—I believe so far as the males are concerned, not fewer than 75 per cent. In the past that has been done in connection with the training colleges, as they are maintained by the various churches interested in religious education, and, therefore, under their control and with their guarantee for the fitness of the religious training which is given to those teachers. Now I come to the Minute itself. So far as the first eight Articles are concerned, they deal with the University side of the training of teachers. From Articles No. IX.

to No. XI. the question of religious instruction is dealt with, and from No. XII. onwards there is nothing but the machinery for carrying out the previous Articles of the Minute. It is in connection with Article No. IX. that I raise the point of the permanent security which we have for the continuance of the policy outlined. Let me read that Article. It is as follows—

"In the event of the body of management of any existing training college or colleges resolving to demit its powers of management in favour of any of the committees constituted under this Minute, and to transfer to the said committee the college premises and equipment, the committee shall have power to receive the same, and to pay therefor such purchase money or annual rent as may be agreed upon, provided always that no payment shall be made for the purchase or rent of any premises which are held in trust by the said body of management for the purpose of training teachers."

Now, my Lords, you may apparently transfer the training college on one of two conditions—either once for all on payment of such lump sum as may be agreed upon, or on the payment of an annual rent. The first Question which I desire to be informed upon is whether it is intended that the transference when once made, whether by the payment of a lump sum or an annual rent, will in all cases be a permanent and final transference. In the first of these alternatives it must obviously be so, but is the payment of an annual rent to convey the idea of a lease under which, if the policy is not successful, the church may hereafter resume its control over the training college?

The second Question which I put deals with funds. The Article I have quoted states at the end that no payment shall be made for the purchase or rent of any premises which are held in trust by the said body of management for the purpose of training teachers. On the face of it that looks perfectly reasonable and fair, but I think we require some further definition of what is really in the mind of the Department than is given here. I am anxious to know whether the rules which are contemplated in one of the later Articles of the Minute have as yet been drafted, and whether before the Department acts upon this Minute we shall have an opportunity of seeing what those rules are. The funds for the provision of training colleges come, so far as I know, from one of three sources. They have either been provided during a long series of years by church collections or donations from individual members of those churches, or they have been provided by savings out of the fees or the grants paid by the Government to the churches. So far as the first of these sources is concerned, it is perfectly clear that the church is entitled to full payment for all that it has paid out for these colleges. In regard to the second source, if any savings have been accumulated it seems equally clear to me that the church would not be entitled to expect repayment for money which had been given by Government for the very purpose for which ostensibly these buildings are still to be used. But, my Lords, with regard to the third source, that of legacies, it seems to me that the words of the Minute are not perfectly distinct and clear, and that you will have, at any rate—and I wish to know whether this is the idea of the Department—to go into an exhaustive inquiry into the terms of the will of the man or woman who has left the legacy in every case in order that you may see whether the legacy in general terms to the church has been devoted to this purpose, or whether the money has been particularly destined to the training of teachers apart and distinct from the religious training of those teachers. I am very anxious to know what is said about that important matter in the rules which are promised, and I think we ought to see the rules before the Department acts upon this Minute.

There is one small Question I would ask with regard to the terms of Article XII. The phraseology seems to me peculiar. The Article speaks of a "Church or denomination." I want to know what is the difference between a church and denomination. I think the word "denomination" is strange in a Scottish Minute. I hope I should not be misunderstood by your Lordships when I say that if the word denomination is right I do not understand why, in contradistinction to the word Church, it should be spelt with a small "d." I do not wish to develop that further, and I might be misunderstood if I were to do so, but I do not understand what is intended in Scottish matters by the word denomination. I know all the churches that have training colleges. There is the Church of Scotland, to which I belong, which has three colleges, which I suppose is allowed to be a Church; there is the Roman Catholic Church, which has a training college in Glasgow, only, I think, for female students; then there is the Scottish Episcopal Church, which has a college in Edinburgh for both sexes. Those, I presume, are Churches. The only other body which has colleges is one of those two bodies who were brought prominently before your Lordships' notice in the appeal case heard in your Lordships' House last session. I suppose these colleges now belong to the Free Church, but whether or not, I do not understand the use of the word denomination in this connection as regards Scotland. It seems to me a borrowing of a phraseology which I do not at all approve of—a sort of ecclesiastical slang—from south of the Tweed. Article XII. provides that—

> "Where a training college is transferred as set forth in the preceding section, the accepting committee shall co-opt, as fully privileged members, representatives of the said Church or denomination, as provided in the annexed schedule."

What I want to know is whether the Church is to be allowed to elect its representatives, or whether the committee at its own sweet will is to take gentlemen or ladies who are members of the Church. There are varying degrees of confidence placed in various members of the different churches, and I for one shall be extremely dissatisfied if the committee—perhaps a hostile committee—are to be those who are to decide who are to be the so-called representatives of the Church. It seems to me that the churches themselves should be entitled to select representatives in whom they themselves have confidence, and I hope that that matter will be made perfectly clear before we leave the subject.

I come to one other matter, and this is really the kernel of the whole question. I am not sure whether under this Minute we have any guarantee that those to whom is committed the duty of training the teachers will be always thoroughly qualified to give the instruction in those sacred subjects with which they will have to deal. Of course, I may be told that the whole question of religious instruction in our public schools depends upon the will of the people of Scotland. That is absolutely and perfectly true, and with that guarantee I for one am perfectly satisfied. I have confidence that the people of Scotland will not depart from their traditional policy, but in that respect we have got statutory security. The preamble of the Act of 1872 recites the fact that religious instruction shall always be given in Scottish schools, but there are in the clauses of that Act provisions securing to the majority in any district power to decree what religious instruction, if any, shall be given in the schools. With all that I am perfectly satisfied.

The question I am raising is this, What security is there for the fitness of the teachers who are in the future to give that instruction? It is no use to say that there shall be religious instruction if the people want it, if there is a monopoly in the training of teachers on the part of the State, the State in its accepted policy for many years having said it will have nothing whatever to do with the religious side of education. I believe that to be a settled policy, and whether I agree with it or not is not the question. The point is that is a settled question, and concurrently with the promise that the people of Scotland shall have a continuance of religious instruction in their schools. Hitherto the different churches have been allowed to train their teachers, and it is because I am not sure of the security given by this Minute for religious instruction that I have placed this Question on the Paper. Your Lordships will see that this is an important matter. We have in Scotland no real quarrel in this matter. The great majority of us agree that the two churches that are in the minority have in the main their own schools, and are able to train their own teachers under conditions which heretofore have been, if not absolutely fair, at any rate as fair as I believe it is possible to make them. If there is any loss of security for this religious instruction we are, I think, cutting very deep into the policy which has been pursued in Scotland in this matter for many years past.

I am entitled, I think, to rely upon agreement with the main lines of what I have been saying on the part of His Majesty's Government, because I noticed that in his speech at Manchester the other day the Prime Minister said that the principle that parents were entitled to the full control of the religious education given to their children was the fundamental principle which ruled all education. The right of the State to see that children are educated is undeniable, but it is a right which seems to me universally admitted to be exercised by the State only on behalf of the parent, and in accordance with the wishes of the parent. I believe it to be the desire of the overwhelming majority of the people of Scotland to have adequate security for religious instruction. I do not like to think that by this side wind there is a risk of this principle being cut into so deeply as I think it may be under this Minute. I regret to have detained your Lordships so long, but I am sure you will agree with me that the importance of the subject and the insidious way in which this policy is put before us justifies my bringing the matter forward. The only other Question I have to ask is whether in all the circumstances, and having regard to the fact that there is a Scottish Education Bill before the other House of Parliament, it would not be wise on the part of the Government to agree to postpone action on this Minute until that Bill has passed into law, and until we have an opportunity of securing some statutory guarantee for the permanence of the policy which I believe is outlined and intended to be carried out in this Minute. I beg to put the Questions standing in my name.

***LORD REAY**: My Lords, through the courtesy of the noble Marquess the Secretary for Scotland, I am allowed to put certain Questions of which I have given him private notice, but before doing so I wish to express my approval of the policy embodied in this Minute. I believe it is a wise step in advance, and that it secures the training on national lines of teachers in Scotland, for elementary as well as for secondary education. I cannot share the anxiety of my noble friend opposite, whose administration of education in Scotland has been so beneficial that by this Minute the religious training of teachers will be in danger. I believe that the various churches are quite capable of ensuring the religious training in the transferred colleges of their adherents, and I do not think that any large body of students educated in those colleges will desire to withdraw from the facilities which certainly will be given by the Government for religious instruction. The people of Scotland attach importance to the religious instruction given in their schools, and no difficulty arises with regard to this instruction. I endorse the regret which the noble Lord expressed at the appearance in this Minute of a word around which such great controversies have centred in England, and of which fortunately in Scotland we have heard hitherto very little. My noble friend the Secretary for Scotland will be well advised in future not to introduce the expressions "denomination" and "denominational" into the educational vocabulary North of the Tweed, as they do not indicate any existing cleavage in the character of the Board schools.

I now come to the Questions of which I have given the noble Marquess private notice. In the first place, I wish to ask him whether the purchase money mentioned in Article IV. of the Minute, and the capital expenditure mentioned in Article XV., will be raised by loan or be provided from the balance of the grant mentioned in Article XIV. A distinction is made in Clause 32 of the Bill which has just been introduced between grants-in-aid of capital expenditure and of other than capital expenditure. My second Question is, Has the committee power to erect premises if no suitable premises can be acquired by purchase or lease? I am glad to see in the Minute that the establishment of a training centre at Inverness is contemplated as a possible contingency. In that case it might be deemed opportune to erect a training college instead of acquiring one by purchase or by lease. The third Question I wish to ask is, Are the maintenance allowances and the fees mentioned in Articles IV. and V. subject to the approval of the Department? My fourth Question is whether the courses mentioned in Article 91 (d) of the Code are to come under the control of the committees created by the Minute. Those are the courses given by county councils or other local authorities, and it will require careful consideration whether county councils and school boards can be placed under the control of these committees. My fifth Question, which I suppose my noble friend will answer in the affirmative, is, Will a training college which does not "demit its powers of management" receive grants under the Code? My sixth Question, of which the importance will not be denied, is, Where the training college is held in trust and is transferred by the trustees to the committee, is the accepting committee bound by the trust deed, and can no legal objection be raised to such transfer by members of the church—I do not add or denomination—whose representatives hold the training college in trust? My seventh Question is, Are the representatives of the church or denomination mentioned in Article XII. fully privileged as regards all matters to be dealt with by the accepting committee, or only as regards those relating to the transferred training colleges? My final Question is, Will the funds mentioned in Article XIV. and the fees mentioned in Article V. be sufficient to provide for the training of teachers for secondary and elementary schools as regards capital and other expenditure, and, if not, are there any other sources of income which can be made available?

*THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (The Marquess of LINLITHGOW): My Lords, I think it would best meet your Lordships' convenience if I give categorical replies to the somewhat long list of Questions put to me by the noble Lord behind me and the noble Lord on the front Opposition Bench. I will first deal with the Questions asked by Lord Balfour of Burleigh. In reply to his first Question, I have to say that the transference of a training college under Article IX. of the Minute is a voluntary transaction. A church or religious denomination may therefore (1) retain the property in any training college in which it is vested and conduct exactly as at present; or (2) while retaining its property and providing for religious instruction therein, according to its own views and under its own direction, it may grant the use of the college buildings to the committee for all other purposes of the training of teachers; or (3) it may divest itself of all rights in the property in favour of the accepting committee upon the conditions, *inter alia*, that the stipulations of Articles XI. and XII. of the Minute are observed. In the last case the conditions of transference would presumably be embodied in a legal instrument, and would have all the permanency that can be given to them by a legal contract, whether the present Minute remained in force or was superseded.

In reply to the second Question, I have to say that for buildings erected by funds received from the State or from profits on the management of training colleges arising directly or indirectly from the proceeds of Government grants or from sums specifically given for training of teachers there could be no compensation granted. But a claim for payment of a money consideration in respect of contributions from general church funds or other sources not expressly destined for the training of teachers would be considered. The noble Lord next asked whether, under Article XII., the representatives will be chosen by the constituent body described as a "Church or denomination," or by the committee, and what relative proportion they will bear to the total number of the committee. The use of the word "representatives" in this Article, in the opinion of the Department, sufficiently indicates that the persons so designated must be chosen by the transferring church, and not by the accepting committee. What the number of these representatives in any particular case shall be must be a matter of agreement between the transferring church and the accepting committee, and it is not possible to say what proportion they will bear to the whole number. The terms of the Minute secure that there shall be at least two. I have to say, in reply to the fourth Question, that the regulations have not yet been drafted. They will deal with the whole question of the training and certification of teachers as in Chapter IV. of the Code and in the existing special regulations of the Department on the subject. When drafted they will be laid before Parliament. With reference to the last Question which my noble friend asks, I regret that I cannot give a reply in the affirmative. His Majesty's Government cannot undertake that the operation of the Minute shall be indefinitely postponed, but it will be observed that under Article XV. of the Minute no expenditure can be incurred by any committee until an estimate of their expenditure has been submitted to and approved by the Department, and I undertake that no such expenditure shall be authorised until the subject has been discussed in both Houses of Parliament.

I now come to the Questions put to me by the noble Lord on the Front Bench opposite, and of which he gave me private notice. He asked, in the first place, whether the purchase money mentioned in Article IV. and the capital expenditure mentioned in Article XV. will be raised by loan or be provided from the balance of the grant mentioned in Article XIV. I would inform the noble Lord, in reply, that any sums necessary will be found by the Department, provided they have been included in the estimate to be submitted to and approved by the Department in terms of Article XV. In reply to his second Question, in which he inquired whether the committee have power to erect premises if no suitable premises can be acquired by purchase or lease, I have to state that it is not considered that the erection of new premises will be necessary for the present. Should the necessity arise, the terms of the Minute may be altered as provided for by Article XVIII. The noble Lord next asked whether the maintenance allowances and the fees mentioned in Articles IV. and V. were subject to the approval of the Department. These items will naturally be included in the estimate of expenditure to be approved by the Department under Article XV.

In reply to the noble Lord's fourth Question, in which he asked whether the courses mentioned in Article 91 (d) of the Code are to come under the control of the committees created by the Minute, I have to reply that it is proposed that courses for the further instruction of teachers already in employment should ultimately be conducted by the committees instituted under this Minute. But so long as county councils have power to conduct classes under Article 91 (d) of the Code, their conduct of these classes will not be directly controlled by the committees. The noble Lord next asked whether a training college which did not demit its powers of management would receive grants under the Code. My answer to this is, certainly. Next, the noble Lord inquired whether where a training college is held in trust and is transferred by the trustees to the committee, the accepting committee is bound by the trust deed, and whether no legal objection could be raised to such transfer by members of the Church or denomination whose representatives hold the training college in trust. No trustees could act in breach of a trust deed, but it is impossible to give a more definite answer without having the precise terms of such a trust deed before one. The noble Lord also inquired whether the representatives of the Church or denomination mentioned in Article XII. are fully privileged as regards all matters to be dealt with by the accepting committee or only as regards those relating to the transferred training colleges. When representatives of a church are added to a committee in accordance with the terms of Article XII., these representatives become members of the committee, and will be entitled to take part in any business thereof.

Finally, the noble Lord asked whether the funds mentioned in Article XIV. and the fees mentioned in Article V. will be sufficient to provide for the training of teachers for secondary and elementary schools as regards capital and other expenditure; and, if not, whether there are any other sources of income which can be made available. My answer to that Question is that it is believed that the funds mentioned will be sufficient for the present for the purposes specified. My noble friends behind me and my noble friend opposite raised an objection to the term "Church or denomination." Of course it must be known to your Lordships that this Minute is not a child of mine, but I accept full responsibility for it now. I have looked up the Education Act of 1872, and I find that the term "denomination" is a good term in educational matters. Section 68 of the Act of 1872 refers to "children of all denominations." I should be very sorry indeed if a mere term imported into a Minute of this kind were to drag us into any of those difficulties which I fear have been not unknown on this side of the Tweed. I thank your Lordships for the patience with which you have listened to me, and I trust that the answers I have given will prove satisfactory.

THE EARL OF CAMPERDOWN: My Lords, I venture to join in the approval of this Minute which has been expressed by my noble friend on the front Opposition Bench. I merely rise to make one remark with regard to the first Question asked by the noble Lord opposite, Lord Balfour—namely, whether the transference of training colleges indicated in Article IX. will in all cases be permanent and irrevocable, and, if so, what is to be the guarantee for the maintenance of the policy outlined in the Minute. I do not think that the Department could possibly have gone further than it has gone with regard to the colleges which may be transferred. Your Lordships might suppose, from what was said, that this was an absorption of the colleges by the University committees, and that the transfer was not being made at the will and desire of the churches to which the colleges now belonged. If your Lordships will look at the Minute you will see that it is only in the event of a body of management resolving to demit its powers of management and transfer to the committee the college premises that any transfer can take place; and, moreover, when you look at the terms of the Minute and at Article XI., you will see that any church which may choose to act in pursuance of this Minute will have made a remarkable bargain for itself. The Minute provides that—

> "When a training college so transferred is the property of, or is held in trust by, the representatives of any Church or religious denomination, it shall be a condition of such transference that provision shall be made therein for religious instruction in accordance with the views of the said Church or denomination, to an extent not less than that which is at present customary in the college so transferred."

That means that when a college which has hitherto belonged to a Church is transferred to a University Committee it will be supported out of public funds, and will receive the same amount of religious instruction which it is receiving at the present time. It seems to me that nothing further can be desired.

On behalf of the church it is asked, What guarantee have we for the permanence of this? Well, in the first place, it would be impossible for Parliament or the Department to bind its successors. We know that at the present time the church is treated very liberally from the religious point of view, and there is an obvious way in which the church may protect itself. It is perfectly within the power of any church which desires to transfer its college to insert in the deed of transfer a condition that should at any time less religious instruction be given than had been given hitherto or than is bargained for under Article XI., then the college and all its property shall revert to the church. It seems to me that in a safeguard of that sort the church has a most satisfactory security. Those who know anything about this question in Scotland are aware that the reason for a church's possible desire to transfer these colleges is that if the University Committees were to establish training colleges in competition with those of the churches, the larger number of the teachers in training would probably go to the national training colleges; but, anyhow, there would be very considerable difficulty in keeping up the training colleges connected with the churches. It is for that reason that the churches, very wisely, I think, have entered into a sort of arrangement with the Department to transfer their colleges. That is a very wise and sensible thing, so far as my judgment goes, for them to do; but to go further and ask for a guarantee that the same amount of religious instruction is always to be continued is to ask something which is not reasonable, and which it would not be in the power of Parliament or the Department to concede. Therefore, I think the policy laid down in the Minute is as favourable to the churches as it possibly could be.

*THE LORD ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY: My Lords, I hope I shall not be intruding if I venture to say a few words on this subject. Although I have no personal connection with education matters north of the Tweed, yet the subject with which this Minute deals concerns in an indirect way English as well as Scottish interests. I associate myself entirely with the position taken by my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh in the speech with which he introduced this question to your Lordships. Like my noble friend I desire to express complete sympathy with the general policy which so far as I understand it underlies the Minute in question. I do not think we have real ground for regarding the interests which we care for most as being imperilled by this Minute; but, at the same time, I for one am grateful to my noble friend for having introduced this subject and emphasised the need for caution and the provision of safeguards against the peril that such a transfer as is now proposed might weaken the religious basis upon which the training colleges have from the first rested. It is perfectly true, as the noble Earl opposite (Lord Camperdown) said, that no training college is under compulsion to transfer itself; but there are other processes besides direct compulsion which may practically produce the same result. It is easy to see how an establishment endowed with all the resources of the State may practically bring about the decease of the colleges by under-cutting the existing religiously-grounded institutions and so compelling them to close their doors. But I see no reason at present to apprehend anything of the kind.

What has fallen from the noble Marquess the Secretary for Scotland and from the noble Lord on the front bench opposite (Lord Reay) reassures us all as to there being practically no difference of opinion on this subject amongst those who have really at heart the interests of educational matters in Scotland, and the control, directly or indirectly, of the policy that is to be pursued. I am anxious merely to say how cordially we emphasise, from the English standpoint, the position taken by Lord Balfour of Burleigh as to the care that is necessary in this matter lest we allow the principle to drop upon which the training colleges were started—a principle which we believe to be inherent to their health to-day, namely, that religious teaching shall form an essential part of what goes on there. We feel that that needs to be safeguarded by those who are concerned in any such transfer as is at present contemplated. It is true to say that the initial stimulus in educational matters as regards training colleges must be assigned, not to the State, but to the bodies which had specially at heart the religious teaching which was to accompany secular teaching. Gradually the State has dissociated itself further and further from the religious side of the instruction given either in the training colleges or in the schools to which those who are there trained go as teachers, and in proportion as the State dissociates itself from the supervision of religious teaching in any form, it becomes the more essential that those of us who care for the religious as well as for the secular side of education shall see that the religious side is not forgotten or impaired. It is because we believe that that branch of education will be considered and remembered by those who are responsible in Scotland for the transfers that are about to take place under this Minute that we can express our general approval of the policy which seems to be foreshadowed.

We care, first, that the teacher who is being educated in the training college shall learn himself or herself that religious knowledge which is afterwards to be imparted; and, secondly, that he or she should adequately learn to impart that knowledge to little children. The two things are not identical, and there is no branch of educational science more difficult to acquire than the power of imparting to little children that religious knowledge which we believe practically all the parents on both sides of the Tweed desire should be imparted to the children in the schools to which those teachers thus trained are to go, It is just because we care for that so greatly that we are anxious to remind those who are at this moment responsible, and those who may hereafter be responsible, that it is in consequence of the assurance which has been fairly given to us that such is the intention of those who are promoting the change that we feel able now, as I for one cordially do, to support the policy here laid down, and to say that we wish it all success.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I should like to add a few words on this subject. It is notorious that our system of training in Scotland has been very defective in the past, and that those colleges which have been essentially denominational colleges, have failed to supply a sufficient number of teachers, or to teach them satisfactorily. There are one or two points in this proposal to which I should like to draw your Lordships' attention. It has not been distinctly stated how far in these new colleges, when they were transferred, religious or denominational instruction is to be given to the teachers. It does seem to me that there is a great deal of danger in not defining this clearly, for there is no doubt that heretofore the colleges have given religious instruction in accordance with the views of the particular denomination to which the training college belonged. When these colleges are transferred to the Universities they will practically become national training colleges, and it does seem to me that in national training colleges denominational teaching should not be given. The only safe way to deal with the question would be to let the teaching in such colleges be secular teaching, and leave the training of the teachers, so far as religious views are concerned, to the churches themselves.

There is another point. As I understand, the noble Marquess the Secretary for Scotland pointed out that this is in a large measure an optional arrangement. There is no compulsion on the training colleges to come in under this system; they are quite at liberty to stay out and continue as in the past. I think that is a little unfortunate, because what we really want to see is a national system of training teachers established in Scotland. It should be done in connection with the Universities in a national way. When it is a question of a considerable transfer of property of this sort it is doubtful whether it is competent for the Department to carry it out by a Departmental Minute. It appears to me to be a matter much more suited for an Act of Parliament, and I should like to put it to the noble Marquess whether to give full effect to the objects of the Minute the proposals should not be put into a Bill and have the authority of an Act of Parliament. I think it will be difficult to find a precedent in which so great a transfer of property has been proposed to be made by a mere Minute of a Department.

I should like to say a word upon the last Question put to the noble Marquess by Lord Balfour of Burleigh. I would urge that delay is desirable, first, because we have not sufficiently full information with regard to the method in which, and how far, religious teaching is to be given; and ,secondly, because I think it is almost a stretch of power to deal with so large a transfer of property by means of a Minute. Moreover, it does seem to me that the fact that there is now before Parliament a proposal to deal with education in Scotland which must largely affect this question is a further argument in favour of delay. As I understand, under the new proposals provincial councils are to be set up throughout Scotland. It does seem to me that the question of the training of teachers is essentially one which ought to be brought within the work of the provincial councils, and I think it will be found that these councils, when they are set up, will more and more be entrusted with work of this sort. That being the case, is it advisable to set up a system of committees, which at best can last but a few months, when there are certainly many open points yet to be discussed and decided. I would urge that in the meantime it would be desirable to postpone any further action in this matter.

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL AND PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (The Marquess of LONDONDERRY): My Lords, I do not think I shall be contradicted when I say that no Member of your Lordships' House is more qualified to speak on Scottish matters than my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who for so many years occupied the position of Secretary for Scotland with credit to himself and to the admiration of all classes of the community in Scotland. Consequently, when he raised this very important question to-day your Lordships naturally listened to him with the greatest interest, and I think the noble Marquess who replied on behalf of the Scottish Office clearly and explicitly answered in detail the Questions put to him. The great fear which Lord Balfour entertains as to the effect of the Minute is that religious education in Scotland will be weakened. Occupying the position I do I am bound to be, so far as that is possible, strictly impartial, but no one has a greater respect for religious instruction in schools than I have, and if I thought for one moment that the Minute was likely to weaken religious instruction in Scotland I should not be standing here to-night to defend that Minute. I cannot believe for one moment that the Minute will have that effect.

The most rev. Primate and my noble friend laid great stress on the fact that teachers ought to be absolutely imbued with the views that they have to impart to the children under their care, and I agree entirely with all that was said on that point. I do not think that education of any kind can be properly imparted to children unless the teacher is specially trained to impart that knowledge, and I cannot, for one moment, believe that the change which is proposed will result in the teachers receiving less religious instruction. The change undoubtedly is to a certain extent a great one, but, whatever takes place under it, there is no compulsion of any sort or kind on denominational colleges, nor need they have the least fear that they will have to abandon their present position if such a course is contrary to their wishes. It is possible for them, if they choose, to remain absolutely independent, and not only that, but to receive in the future those grants from the State which they have received in the past.

Apart from the position of the existin training colleges each committee is empowered to provide, whether in University classes or otherwise, courses of instruction suitable for the training of teachers, and it is especially laid down that these courses may include, if the committee so determine, instruction in religious subjects. It may be said, "Yes, but that ought to be compulsory. It ought not to be left in the power of the committee to decide whether it should or should not be given." I honestly confess that I do not think there is any need for apprehension on that point. Religious instruction of a denominational character has always been given in Scotland in the past, and I cannot see why there should be any fear that it will not be given in the future.

My noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh alluded to a speech made by the Prime Minister at Manchester, in which my right hon. friend rightly declared that the religious instruction given to children should be in accordance with the wishes of their parents. That is what we have tried to do both in England and in Scotland. The committees which will be appointed will comprise members who have occupied prominent places on the local authorities in various districts, and if religious instruction of a denominational character has been given in the past in the schools over which they have had control, I do not see why any fear should be entertained on that score in the future. In England denominational instruction cannot be given in the provided schools, but in Scotland no such difference exists. That being so, I cannot see why there should be any apprehension on account of the proposed change.

The rights and privileges of the colleges that may be transferred are thoroughly safeguarded in the Minute. Article XI. provides that when a training college so transferred is the property of, or is held in trust by, the representatives of any Church or religious denomination, it shall be a condition of such transference that provision shall be made therein for religious instruction in accordance with the views of the said Church or denomination to an extent not less than that which is at present customary in the college so transferred, which instruction may either be provided by the accepting committee or the transferring Church or denomination, as may be agreed between them. And Article XI. goes on to say that where the accepting committee undertake to provide such instruction on their own behalf, it shall be a condition that they also undertake to afford adequate facilities for the periodical inspection of the said instruction by duly accredited representatives of the transferring Church or denomination under conditions to be determined by the Department. That being the case, I really do not see how there can be any apprehension as regards the future of religious education in these colleges should they be transferred to the committee.

My noble friend opposite, Lord Tweedmouth, suggested that the matter should be more fully threshed out before the Minute became operative. My noble friend the Secretary for Scotland has permitted me to say that he has no objection to the question being discussed as often as your Lordships choose. But I do not think my noble friend Lord Balfour will have any cause to complain of the categorical answers so clearly given to his Questions by the noble Marquess.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: My Lords, I am very well aware that those who dwell on the other side of the Tweed do not like the interference of Englishmen in Scottish questions, and it is a very reasonable feeling on their part. Your Lordships, therefore, will not be surprised when I say that I do not rise for the purpose of discussing the details of this matter at all; but I do think that the suggestion of my noble friend Lord Balfour of Burleigh, which has been supported by my noble friend Lord Tweedmouth, that this Minute should not be brought into operation until after both Houses have had an opportunity of discussing the Education Bill which we understand is shortly to be introduced, is one deserving of the serious consideration of His Majesty's Government. There are some portions of this Minute which, as suggested by Lord Tweedmouth, seem to me to require legislation, and I do not think they can be carried out by a mere Minute. But, apart from that question, as we are going to have a Scottish Education Bill this year, I would press on His Majesty's Government that they should not deal with the question partly by Minute before the Bill is brought in, and partly by Bill, but should deal with the subject as a whole and by Bill as being the best means of securing complete discussion by Parliament.

WHALE FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (The Marquess of LINLITHGOW): My Lords, this is practically the same Bill which passed through your Lordships' House in August of last year. On the occasion of the Second Reading of that measure my noble friend Lord Kintore, who was last session in charge of Scottish matters in your Lordships' House, made a very able and comprehensive speech explaining the whole of the proposals very fully. I do not think it is necessary for me to recapitulate what he said. I would only remind your Lordships that the Bill is founded on the Report of a Committee appointed by my predecessor, and that it has three objects in view—(1) the protection of the inhabitants of the districts near the whaling stations from nuisance and danger to health; (2) the protection of fishermen in the pursuit of their lawful industry; and (3) the protection of the whaling trade against itself. I believe that if the Bill is passed the whaling industry may become a very useful one, and be prosecuted without injury to the fisher-folk and with advantage to the people living in the neighbourhood of the whaling stations.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Marquess of Linlithgow.*)

On Question, Bill read 2ª and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Friday next.

House adjourned at a quarter before Six o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 20th March, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 67 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 67 has been complied with, viz.:—Cork Junction Railways Bill.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 66 NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 66 has not been complied with, viz.:—Cork Junction Railways Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Leven's Patent Bill.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

Dublin United Tramways Bill (by Order). Read a second time, and committed.

Swansea Corporation Bill; Ordered, That the Minutes of Evidence taken before the Committee on the Swansea Improvements and Tramways Bill in Session 1897 be referred to the Committee on the Swansea Corporation Bill.—(*Mr. Caldwell.*)

Accrington Corporation Bill; Morley Corporation Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petition from Leeds, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Ayrshire, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS.

Return [presented 17th March] to be printed. [No. 88.]

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND) GENERAL REPORTS.

Copy presented, of General Report by the Chief Inspector of the Northern Division of Scotland for the year 1904 [by Command]: to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings during the month of January, 1905 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY (VICTUALLING YARD MANUFACTURING ACCOUNTS, 1903-4).

Annual Accounts presented, of the Cost of Manufacturing, Provisions, Victualling Stores, etc., at the Home Victualling Yards and Malta Yard for 1903–4, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 89.]

NAVY (NEW SCHEME OF TRAINING).

Copy presented, of Further Reports of Members of the Interview Committees on the selection of Candidates for nomination as Naval Cadets [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

IRISH LAND ACT, 1903 (IRISH LAND COMMISSION ESTATES COMMISSIONERS).

Copy ordered, "of instructions issued by the Commissioners for the guidance of inspectors."—(*Mr. Walter Long.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 90.]

EAST INDIA (EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS OUT OF INDIA).

Address for "Return comprising the particulars, as follows:—

(1) What number of British Troops, and of what arms, were taken from the Indian Garrison in September and October, 1899, and sent on service in South Africa.

(2) How many subsequently, and what number were there at the close of the war.

(3) How many and what classes of Troops were sent from India to China to assist in putting down the Boxer rising, rescuing members of the European Legations, and recovering their buildings at Pekin.

(4) The numbers of British and Indian Troops detached from the Indian Garrison for service in Somaliland and East Africa.

(5) What was the amount saved to the Military Expenditure of the Indian Government by the loan of these Troops and the Indian Commissariat Services for purposes of the Home Government in the several years of those transfers; also in the aggregate."—(*Sir Walter Foster.*)

SMALL ARMS FACTORIES (MANUFACTURES).

Address for "Return showing—

The number of Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured at the Royal Small Arms Factories at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively, with the cost per rifle at each Factory for the years 1890–1 and onward to the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903, inclusive. Also the number of Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured at the Birmingham and London Small Arms Factories respectively, with the contract price of same at each Factory for the years 1890 and onward to the year ending the 31st day of March, 1903, inclusive.

The total numbers made at each of the four Factories for the years named respectively, and the average cost at each Factory per rifle.

The number of sword bayonets for the Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured at the Royal Small Arms Factories at Enfield and Sparkbrook during the same period, with the number and cost per sword bayonet for each year respectively, and the orders on hand and unfinished at the present time.

The number of sword bayonets for the Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles manufactured by private contract for the same period, showing cost per sword bayonet for each year respectively, and orders in hand undelivered at the present time.

The number of machine guns made at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively for the years 1889 to 1904, showing type and cost per gun for each year, and the number of guns on order and unfinished at each Factory at the present time.

The number of machine guns made by private contract during the years 1889 onwards to 1904 respectively, showing type and cost per gun for each year, with the numbers of guns on order and undelivered at the present time.

The number of pistols manufactured at Enfield between the years 1880 upwards to 1904 inclusive, showing type and cost per pistol for each year respectively.

The number of pistols manufactured by private contract for the years 1880 upwards to 1904 inclusive, showing type and cost per pistol for each year respectively.

The total amount of money expended on plant for the manufacture of pistols at Enfield.

The additions to building and plant at Enfield since the year 1883 up to the present time, and the cost for each year respectively.

The estimated cost of the electrical power now being installed.

The number of men employed in the machine gun department at Enfield for the years 1889 upwards to 1904 respectively, and the number employed at the present time. The total amount paid in wages for each year respectively, and the amount paid in wages for the eleven months ending February, 1905.

The number of men employed at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively, for the years 1888 upwards to 1904, and the total amount paid in wages for each year during the same period at each factory.

The number at present employed at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively.

The number of machines at present standing idle at Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively, and the number of machines partially employed at each factory.

What is the normal capacity for output at each of the two factories, and what would be the capacity for output of Enfield and Sparkbrook respectively if the men were employed on three eight-hour shifts in each twenty-four hours, including Sundays.

The cost of building and plant of the Royal Small Arms Factory now being built in India, and the estimated capacity for output in normal and three eight-hour shifts each twenty-four hours, including Sundays."—(*Mr. Abel Smith.*)

ARMY (PENSIONS).

Address for "Return of—

(1) The number of Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and Men who retired from the Army on pension (time expired only) in each of the following years: 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, 1900, 1901, 1902, and 1903.

(2) The average number of years of service (a) of Officers retiring on pension, (b) of Non-Commissioned Officers and Men retiring on pension in each of the above years.

(3) The total amount of cash paid to the above time-expired pensioners, namely, (a) to Officers, (b) to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men, in each of the above years.

(4) The total number of pensioners deceased in each of the above years (a) Officers, (b) Non-Commissioned Officers and Men.

(5) The average ages at death (a) of Officers, (b) of Non-Commissioned Officers and Men in each of the above years.

(6) The total cash amount disbursed in pensions, during the tenure of the pension, to each deceased pensioner in each of the above years (a) to Officers, (b) to Non-Commissioned Officers and Men."—(*Captain Norton.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Duties of Local Authorities under the Public Health Acts.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the report of a case in which the Mayor, Aldermen, and Council of the Borough of Paddington were summoned for refusing to grant a certificate to allow a baker to use his premises; and whether, having regard to the observations made by the stipendiary magistrate who dealt with the case (granting at once the necessary certificate), he will, in the interests of traders, issue a circular to all borough councils and administrative bodies as to their duties under the Acts relating to public health and sanitation.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I have seen a newspaper report of the case referred to and have made some inquiry with regard to it. I understand that the consideration with which the

Paddington Borough Council and their officers have administered the enactment under which the proceedings were taken has been acknowledged by a considerable number of the proprietors and lessees of underground bakehouses in the borough, and it does not seem to me necessary to issue any such circular as that suggested.

Out-Relief for Underfed Children.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the evidence given before the Physical Deterioration Committee relating to the condition of children, he will issue a circular to boards of guardians calling their attention to their powers and duties as to underfed children, and pointing out the importance, in the case of giving out-relief to young children, of giving milk rather than a large amount of bread.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) So far as I am aware, there is no reason to suppose that boards of guardians are not alive to the powers and duties which attach to them in relation to underfed children, where application is made to them for relief. With regard to the latter part of the Question, I think that boards of guardians may be trusted to use their discretion as to giving of milk as out-relief to young children. The Local Government Board called the attention of their inspectors to the subject last year. It does not appear to me to be necessary to issue a circular as suggested.

Issue of Somaliland Medal and Gratuity to Naval Brigade.

MR. REGINALD LUCAS (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will explain why the medal and gratuity for service in Somaliland has not yet been issued to the men of the Royal Navy who took part in the operations, although they have for some time been distributed to those entitled to them in the Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The Admiralty decision as to the medal and gratuity for the operations in Somaliland was given on 28th January. Steps were at once taken to make the necessary communications to the Treasury for the payment of the gratuity and to the Mint for the supply of the medals. The bulk of the latter having now been received, a notice as to the terms of the award will appear in the *London Gazette* of Tuesday 21st instant, and the distribution will proceed forthwith. The payment of the gratuities to those entitled has already commenced.

Fair Wages Resolution and Steamship Mail Contracts.

MR. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the wages paid to the sailors and firemen employed on the Royal Mail steamer "Orepesa," of the Pacific Line, are in accordance with the Fair Wage Resolution of this House; and whether such rate of wages is equal to that paid by other steamship companies engaged in the same trade carrying the Royal mails from Southampton and other ports.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The Secretary to the Treasury has requested me to reply to this Question, as it relates primarily to the Post Office. I have no information as to the wages paid on the steamer mentioned by the hon. Member. It has always been held that the Fair Wages Resolution of the House does not apply to contracts with steamship companies for the conveyance of mails.

Injuries to Seamen.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state the number of seamen who met with hurt or injury on board British ships during the year 1904; whether he can state the number of such seamen who were engaged at ports in the United Kingdom; whether he can state the number of such seamen engaged at ports abroad; and whether he can state the number of seamen whose expenses were paid by the owners, and also of those whose expenses were paid out of the wages due to the seamen from the ship.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The number of seamen reported to the Board of Trade as having been injured during the year 1904 was 2,594, while 1,049 are reported to have lost their lives owing to wreck, casualty, or other accident. I am afraid I cannot give comparable figures with reference to the various other matters referred to by the hon. Member's Question.

Inspection of Weights and Measures on Board Ship.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether inspectors of weights and measures examine the weights and measures used on board ship for weighing provisions and other articles supplied to seamen, as provided by Section 201 of the Merchant Shipping Act; and, if not, whether he will cause inquiry to be made into the matter with a view to such weights and measures being thoroughly examined and, if unfit, condemned as required by the Weights and Measures Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) Inspectors of weights and measures are under the control of local authorities, and I will cause inquiries to be made as to the practice with regard to their inspection of weights and measures used on board ship.

Prices of Tobacco supplied to Masters of British Ships.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state the price paid by the masters of British ships per pound for tobacco out of bond at ports in the United Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) There are no figures in the possession of the Board of Trade that would enable me to furnish the information asked for by the hon. Member.

Scale of Provisions for Merchant Ships.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state how many shipowners have adopted the scale of provisions for merchant ships recommended by the Mercantile Marine Committee; whether he can state the reason why the scale recommended by this Committee has not been generally adopted; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to introduce a Bill this session making the scale recommended by the Mercantile Marine Committee compulsory.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I am unable to state how many shipowners have adopted the scale of provisions recommended by the Mercantile Marine Committee, but I find that out of 3,647 merchant vessels registered and engaging crews in the United Kingdom in the year 1904, 380 adopted that scale. Although this scale has not been more generally adopted I find that a similar scale was inserted in the articles of 1,691 vessels. As at present advised the Board of Trade are not prepared to introduce legislation for the purpose of making any scale compulsory.

Seamen's Discharges—Case of Bengtson.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the case of a seaman, named Bengtson, who engaged on the British steamship "Ovid," at Yokohama, on October 25th, 1904, and, in consequence of injuries received in the service of the ship, was discharged at Batavia on December 5th, the master paying him the balance of wages due; and will he explain, in view of Section 207 of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, why, on Bengtson's arrival in London on February 27th, 1905, he was informed by the superintendent of the Mercantile Marine Office, Victoria Docks, that the balance of his wages, namely, £6 1s. 4d., for which he applied, had been used for the purpose of defraying the cost of his passage and maintenance to England.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Board of Trade are making inquiries into this matter, and when they are concluded a communication shall be addressed to the hon. Member.

Fatal Accidents on Electrified North Eastern Railway.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state the names of the persons who have met with fatal injuries since the opening of the electrified portion of the North Eastern Railway a year ago through coming into contact with the live rail; and what compensation has been awarded to the relatives in each instance.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The names reported to the Board of Trade are as follows: John Frederick Irving, Joseph Innis, Jonas Whitehead, James Harris, and Elizabeth Chapman. The accident to the last named appears to be that which the hon. Member has referred to in previous Questions as an accident to Alice Maughan. I am not aware what compensation has been paid to the relatives in any of these cases.

Explosions caused by Escaping Gas and Electric Current.

SIR THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to accidents reported by the Metropolitan Police as being due to explosions caused through gas escaping into telegraph inspection chambers and coming into contact with leakage in an electric wire; and will he state what compensation has been paid for any personal injuries which such accidents may have caused, and what action has been taken to prevent their recurrence.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) My attention has been called to this matter frequently, but as I told the hon. Member, in reply to his Question of last session,† I have not seen any reason to suppose that explosions have been due to leakage in a telegraph or telephone wire. No compensation has been paid by the Post Office, which has not been in any way in fault. The engineers of the Post Office are considering whether there is anything the Department can do to diminish the danger arising from the escape of gas.

Allowances to London Post Office Engineers.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can state whether any part of the allowances authorised by the Treasury to London Post Office engineers on November 2nd, 1904, has yet been paid; whether it has been proposed to apply these allowances by means of a corresponding reduction of salaries; and whether, in view of the figures quoted on page 116 of the Post Office Estimates, it has been decided to enforce this method of application, despite the unanimous refusal of the officers concerned to accept it after being invited to do so.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The allowances in question have been paid to all persons entering the establishment since November 2nd last. But it was not my intention to alter the total remuneration of the existing members of the upper classes of the engineering establishment in London. In their case the allowances can only be paid concurrently with a corresponding reduction in salaries, and they were allowed to choose between the old and the new method of payment. In the case of the sub-engineers, however, I have under consideration the question of granting the allowance as an addition to the present salaries of men now on the class. The full allowance, however, would not be given to those who have already received increased pay in respect of their appointment to a post in London.

Regulations to Check Importation of Diseased Fruit.

COLONEL LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture what foreign nations or British Colonies have laws and regulations to check and prevent the importation of diseased apples or other fruit, so as to stop the introduction into their respective countries of the codlin moth and other insect pests.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) All the principal vine-growing countries have made regulations designed to prevent the introduction of the phylloxera. The United States, Canada, and the South African and Australian Colonies also take precautionary measures against the San Jose scale. British Columbia aims at excluding the woolly aphis, the apple tree aphis, the codlin moth, and other injurious insects and all fungus diseases, and most, if not all, of the Australian Colonies and many of the American States adopt similar precautions to prevent the introduction of insect and fungus pests. As my hon. friend is aware, we have prepared a full Memorandum on the subject for the information of the Departmental Committee on Fruit Culture, of which he is a member; and the subject is one which will continue to receive their careful consideration.

Employees in the Ordnance Survey Office.

SIR BARRINGTON SIMEON (Southampton): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the official order recently issued to the Royal

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† See (4) Debates, cxxxix., 1551.

Arsenal and Dockyards, that in the event of its being necessary to discharge employees those who have been employed less than ten years should be selected for discharge, is to apply to the Ordnance Survey.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) The order to which my hon. friend refers does not apply to the Ordnance Survey. It is the general rule of the Survey, when a reduction of the staff becomes necessary, to select the younger men for discharge where possible, but each case is considered on its merits. It may, for example, sometimes be necessary to discharge an old employee if there is no suitable work for him to do, or to give the preference to a younger employee with an excellent record as compared with an older one with a bad record. I may add that we do not anticipate that it will be necessary to make any general reduction in the staff of the Survey in the near future which cannot be effected by not filling up vacancies as they occur.

Sugar Duty.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what was the average gross rate of duty received on sugar in each financial year since the reimposition of the sugar duty, up to the 31st March, 1904, and in the eleven months up to the 28th February, 1905; the number of samples of sugar polariscopically examined by the Customs in the above periods and the cost of such examination; the annual cost to the country of supervising the British sugar refineries in bond; and whether he has yet had an opportunity of considering the system by which the sugar duties are levied on polariscopic tests; and whether, in view of the bonding of British refineries under the Sugar Convention Act, a simpler method might with advantage to the revenue be adopted; and, if so, whether he intends to make any change in the system this year.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The average gross rate of duty received on sugar in each financial year since the reimposition of the Sugar Duty, up to the 31st March, 1904, and in the eleven months up to the 28th February, 1905, is as follows: Financial year ended 31st March, 1902, the cwt. 3s. 10·87d.; financial year ended 31st March, 1903, the cwt. 3s. 10·21d.; financial year ended 31st March, 1904, the cwt. 3s. 11·49d.; eleven months ended 28th February, 1905, the cwt. 4s. 0·06d. The increase in the average gross rate in 1904 and in 1905 is due to the fact that, previous to 1st September, 1903, sugar which was imported to be refined in this country was duty-paid while in an unrefined condition, and that, from the 1st September, 1903, sugar imported to be refined in Great Britain has not been duty-paid until after refinement. As a consequence, the average cwt. of sugar, duty-paid while unrefined, being of a lower polarisation and sweetening power than the average cwt. of sugar now duty-paid on delivery from a refinery, was necessarily assessed at a lower average rate of duty. The number of samples of sugar polariscopically examined by the Customs in the above periods and the cost of such examination was as follows—

	Number of samples polariscopically examined.	Cost of examination thereof.
		£
Financial Year ended 31st March, 1902	25,706	2,159
,, ,, 1903	28,005	2,471
,, ,, 1904	28,176	2,380
11 months ended 28th February, 1905	23,369	1,934

The annual cost to the country of supervising the British sugar refineries in bond is estimated, under present conditions, at £15,600. With reference to the remaining portion of the Question, I am advised that the system of levying the sugar duty on polariscopic test is accepted without demur by all engaged in the trade, and that the polariscopic method of testing sugar is simple, rapid, and accurate, no better method being known or required. Both at home and abroad it is a method understood and practised with satisfactory results both by Governments for sugar revenue and by those engaged in the sugar industry. In view of these considerations I am not prepared to recommend any alteration in the existing system of collecting the duty.

Budget Figures—Payments for Outstanding Contracts—Arrears of Income-Tax.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in preparing the Budget Estimates for the year 1905–6, he will append thereto a schedule giving particulars of orders given and contracts entered into by the Government for stores, buildings, munitions of war, or other supplies which will have to be delivered to the Government in future, but which have not been provided for in the said Budget Estimates; and whether he will also give an estimate of the amount of arrears of income-tax outstanding on 31st March, 1905, as compared with the amount of arrears of the said tax which were outstanding on 31st March, 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I must ask the hon. Member to await the Budget statement. If, when that statement is made, it does not contain information which he thinks indispensable, I shall be prepared to consider the propriety of supplementing it by further communications. But I must respectfully decline to pledge myself beforehand as to the nature and scope of the statement.

National Repertory Theatre—Suggested Government Subsidy.

MR. W. F. D. SMITH (Strand, Westminster): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has been requested to grant an annual subsidy towards the permanent establishment of a National Repertory Theatre, provided a proportion of the funds required is guaranteed by the members of the public interested in its establishment; and, if so, can he state the answer which he gave to that request.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Yes, Sir, I have been requested to lay before His Majesty's Government a proposal to grant an annual subsidy of £10,000 towards the permanent establishment of a National Repertory Theatre in the West End of London. I have replied that I am unable to recommend such a grant from public funds.

Political Pensions—Declaration of Necessitous Circumstances.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the political pensions granted under the provisions of 32 and 33 Vic., c. 60, are subject to a declaration of necessitous circumstances; and if he will state the terms of such declaration.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Yes, Sir, the grant of such pensions is subject to a declaration that the pensioner's total income is inadequate to maintain his station in life. The declaration is framed under the provisions of Section 7 of the Act of 1869.

Report of Income-Tax Inquiry Committee.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Departmental Committee of Inquiry into the Income-Tax has reported; and, if not, when its Report may be expected; and whether a copy of its Report will be laid upon the Table of the House.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) The Committee has not yet reported, but I am informed that its Report may be looked for shortly. The work of the Committee has been somewhat prolonged by the addition in November to their reference of an instruction to inquire and report whether co-operative societies enjoy under the present law any undue exemption from liability to income-tax. When I have received the Report, I will consider whether it can be presented to Parliament.

Bombay University Degrees.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that no person can obtain a degree in any of the faculties of the Indian Universities without passing the entrance examination, and that this examination is under the control of the Faculty of Arts; and whether, seeing that the Faculty of Arts is the dominant faculty in the Universities, he will take steps that Mr. Justice Tyabji, Mr. Justice Chandravarkar, Mr. Justice Batty, Sir Pherozshah Mehta, the Honourable Mr. Setalwad, and other Fellows of the University should not be excluded from the Faculty of Arts.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The regulations for the constitution of faculties in the Bombay University have under the law to be made by the Senate of that University, of which the gentlemen named in the Question are members. The preparation of rules for examinations also rests with the Senate, and in the preparation of these rules the gentlemen named will have the opportunity of taking part. I see no reason to interfere with the discretion of the University authorities as constituted by law.

Calcutta University Senate.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware of the services rendered to higher education and to science in India by Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee, Mr. A. M. Bose, Father Lafont, Dr. P. C. Ray, Mr. Perceval, Mr. N. N. Ghose, Mr. Justice Ashutosh Mukerjee, and Dr. J. C. Bose, and of the dissatisfaction felt at the exclusion of these gentlemen from the Senate of the Calcutta University, and from the Faculty of Arts; and whether, seeing that over 70 per cent. of the members of the Calcutta Senate are not graduates of the University, and that over 56 per cent. are Government servants, steps will be taken to prevent the exclusion of Indian gentlemen who have served the University with distinction from a share in its management.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The hon. Member appears to have been misinformed as to the facts stated in his Question. Of the eight gentlemen named by him, five, viz., Father Lafont, Mr. Perceval, Mr. N. N. Ghose, Mr. Justice Ashutosh Mukerjee, and Dr. J. C. Bose have been appointed Fellows and members of the Senate of the Calcutta University. Of these five, three, viz., Mr. Perceval, Mr. N. N. Ghose, and Mr. Justice Mukerjee have been allotted to the Faculty of Arts, and the remaining two to the Faculty of Science. I have no information as to the reason why the remaining three gentlemen were not appointed to the Senate by the authorities charged with the duty of selection; but I observe that of the ninety-one ordinary Fellows of the Calcutta University whose nomination was notified in the *Gazette of India* of December 10th, 1904, and January 28th, 1905, no less than forty-five are Indian gentlemen of distinction.

Election of Kildare Petty Sessions Clerk.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, at the recent election in Kildare of a petty sessions clerk for the districts of Kildare and Rathangan, in which a Mr. Samuel Bratton was declared elected on February 2nd, he is aware that the said Samuel Bratton received only three votes out of a total of seven magistrates present and voting; that this alleged election was held in a private room off the public Court from which the candidates, the public, and the Press were excluded; and that a memorial protesting against the irregular character of the proceedings was addressed to His Excellency the Earl of Dudley, on behalf of the general public of the districts concerned, and signed by the Very Rev. P. Campion, P. P. Kildare and Rathangan, and the Very Rev. N. A. Staples, O.C.C., White Abbey, Kildare, on February 4th, and duly acknowledged by His Excellency; and if, under these circumstances, he will take steps to have this election annulled and a new election ordered.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The facts are substantially as stated in the Question. There were three candidates, of whom Mr. Bratton received three votes, and the two remaining candidates two votes each. Prior to the election the chairman of the magistrates announced that the candidate who should first receive a majority of the votes would be declared elected. I am advised that this was a legal method of election, and also that the magistrates acted within their powers in retiring to their private room to vote. The result of the election was duly announced in public Court. A reply to the memorial was sent on March 8th to the effect that the election was legal.

Irish Education—Amalgamation of Boys' and Girls' Departments.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the dissatisfaction in regard to the introduction of the new rule in boys' schools, he will consult with the National Commissioners of Education as to the advisability of the amalgamation of boys' and girls' schools where work goes on under one roof, and inaugurate a separate infant department for both sexes up to eight, the head mistress holding her salary and being put in charge of the latter department.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners are in favour of the amalgamation of small schools in suitable cases, and the arrangement suggested in the Question might be possible in some such cases. But the circumstances affecting the amalgamation of schools are so varied that each case must be judged on its merits, and it is not practicable to formulate a general rule applicable to all cases.

Teachers as Secretaries of School Attendance Committees.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain on what grounds the new rules of the National Commissioners of Education debar teachers from acting as secretaries to school attendance committees; and whether, seeing that such work is performed outside school hours and does not interfere with the discharge of their duties as teachers, he will communicate to the Commissioners the advisability of removing this disqualification.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Under Rule 88 (a): "Teachers are not permitted to carry on, or engage in, any business or occupation that will impair their usefulness as teachers." It has been decided that the position of secretary to a school attendance committee comes within the rule.

Improved Navigation of the River Suir.

MR. CONDON (Tipperary, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Department of Agriculture for Ireland have had the navigation of the River Suir from Clonmel to Carrick-on-Suir examined and reported on by their engineer, and that, being satisfied of the large traffic on the river and the importance of its improvement, he had recommended the improvement of such navigation, which necessitated the erection of certain works and the alteration in the bed and banks of that river, and that the Law Officers of the Crown had advised them to carry out such improvement; and, if so, having regard to the importance of improving the navigation of such rivers in Ireland, will the Government bring in a Bill to confer all such powers as may be necessary on the Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The facts as to the engineer's examination and report are substantially as stated. There is no foundation, however, for the suggestion that the Law Officers gave advice to the effect mentioned. I cannot give any undertaking that the Government will introduce legislation on the subject.

The Ivel Motor Ambulance.

COLONEL McCALMONT (Antrim, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether sanction will be given by the War Office to trials, free of all cost, of the Ivel motor, shielded with Cammell's bullet-proof steel for protecting medical officers and men giving first aid, affording electric light without glass to field hospital camps, and also working a new portable ice-making machine, for testing and report in the field, under the direction of the medical department at Aldershot.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The Ivel motor ambulances with bullet-proof armour, electric light apparatus, and gear for portable ice machine has been under consideration and has been declined as unsuited to service requirements. Further trials are not therefore contemplated.

Greatcoat of King's Messenger.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the fact that the King's Messenger's greatcoat, Requisition Order 3,156, was made in the Department at the Royal Army Clothing Department, Pimlico; and will he explain why this greatcoat was passed through the outdoor division and paid for in the same way.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) This coat was made up by some of the military tailors under instruction, because the ordinary women piece workers employed in the factory are unskilled in this description of work. In this and similar cases the men employed are temporarily attached to one of the divisions of the factory to enable the payment for the work to appear in the accounts in a regular way.

Barrack Accommodation in North China.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received reports on the barrack accommodation in North China, showing that the quarters and barracks of British officers and native ranks of the Indian contingent quartered in China at Shan-hai-Kwan, Tientsin, and other stations, were in an unsanitary condition; whether he is aware that at Shan-hai-Kwan nearly every British officer has been, at some time or other, laid up with fever, dysentery, or diarrhœa; that the quarters of both officers and men were in an old yamen, the enclosure of which is the old bed of the river Shito, and liable to be flooded; whether, seeing that the other foreign contingents at Shan-hai-Kwan are better housed in forts captured by the British force in 1900, and at Tientsin have superior accommodation, and in view of the condition of those of our own troops, he will explain why the money taken in the last year's Army Estimates for the improvement of the accommodation at Pekin was not expended, and why it is now decided to spend no money at Shan-hai-Kwan.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The official reports do not bear out the statements made in the Question as to the insanitary character of the barrack accommodation for the troops in North China. It is, however, admitted that the officers' quarters at Shan-hai-Kwan compare very unfavourably with those at Tientsin. As regards Shan-hai Kwan and Tientsin, local syndicates have offered to erect suitable barracks for the troops, and lease them to the War Department; and these offers have been accepted. As regards Pekin, since the money was originally taken in Army Estimates a revision of the scheme has been brought forward and is receiving careful consideration.

Interchange of Stores and Plant between Army and Navy.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War under what Vote and sub-head is credit taken for the guns and ammunition taken over by the War Office from the Navy consequent on the laying up of obsolete ships; and what is the amount so credited.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) This interchange of stores and plant already provided by Parliament does not necessitate any fresh Parliamentary provision or appropriation. Its effect will, however, appear in the Stock Accounts published at the close of the year with the Appropriation Account.

South African Jam Contracts—Names of Contractors.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state who were the contractors who supplied 1,350,816 tins of jam for South Africa, each tin containing, as described in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, 12 ounces of jam instead of 1lb., as per contract, and whether he will state who were the War Office inspecting officials who passed the goods on receipt.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) With regard to the first part of the hon. Member's Question, I have to say that I have made inquiry as to the names of the contractors, but have not yet received the information. The Agent-General for South Australia has informed me that the contracts were made in Australia, and that he is not acquainted with the names of the contractors, but that they shall be furnished. I have no doubt that I shall receive similar information with respect to the other contracts made in the Colonies. The supplies furnished by the Australian Colonies were inspected by the Agricultural Departments of those Colonies before shipment.

As regards the second part of the Question, under war conditions time did not admit of the weighing or detailed examination of such supplies at Durban, and the examination by supply officers at that port was confined, necessarily, to seeing that the goods had not suffered any damage during sea transit and were apparently fit for issue to the troops. The question as to whether there was any shortage on the total amount ordered is under investigation, and I am not prepared to anticipate the result of the inquiry.

Coolie Education in Ceylon.

MR. SCHWANN: To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies why it has been found necessary to appoint a further Commission to deal with the question of coolie education in Ceylon; what are the names of the present Commissioners; and whether he will cause to be supplied copies of the special Minutes or Memoranda on the subject of estate schools which were submitted by the various individual members of the Education Cess Committee of the Incidence on Taxation Commission, but which were not included in the Commissioners' Final Report.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The Governor has found it desirable to appoint a Commission (*a*) to consider how the suggestions of a Committee appointed in 1901 can be given effect to; (*b*) to suggest any other practical means of meeting the cost of elementary education; (*c*) to deal with the question of coolie education and grouping estates for school purposes. The members of the Commission are: Mr. Wace, Government Agent, Central Province; Mr. Harward, Director of Public Instruction; the Rev. H. Highfield, Principal of the Wesley College; Mr. D. B. Jayatilleke, Principal of the Ananda College, and Mr. T. C. Huxley, planter. So far as I am aware, the Papers referred to in the last part of the Question have not yet been presented to the Legislative Council, and I am, therefore, unable to lay them upon the Table.

Amount spent on Land Settlement in Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he will state the total cost spent on land settlement, the number of acres purchased, the price paid, the amount of money grants to settlers, the number of acres now actually occupied, and the number of settlers actually in occupation in the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The information, as far as I have it, is as follows:—

Land Settlement in Transvaal and Orange River Colony.

	Transvaal,	Orange River Colony.
Total issues on Loan Account to 31st December, 1904	1,031,134	1,040,288
Acreage purchased . . .	not less than 878,552 acres	1,025,456 acres (to 30th June last. This is in addition to 501,800 acres inherited from the Orange Free State Government).
Price fixed for land . . .	£484,843	£844,379
Advances to settlers . .	£94,524	£73,740
Acreage allotted . . .	690,929 acres	1,245,332 acres
Number of settlers (exclusive of any families)	557	691

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Civil Servants' Pay while Volunteering.

MR. BENN (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the Treasury Minute which grants part payment to Civil servants for leave taken for the purpose of attending certain Volunteer camps when held for the extended period of a fortnight, he will give a like privilege to those Civil servants who attend camps of one week's duration; and, further, whether he will so arrange that leave taken for the purpose of attending such camps shall not be included in the fortnight's leave now allowed by Admiralty regulations.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The privilege referred to is given under Treasury Minute which is applicable to all public Departments. Any question as to the extension of this Minute to cover camps of less duration should be addressed to that Department.

Obsolete War Vessels in the Kyles of Bute.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that the position of the obsolete war vessels in the Kyles of Bute is objected to by the Clyde Lighthouse Trust, who have complained to the Board of Trade on the subject; and whether he will communicate with the Board of Trade with a view to putting an end to the grievance complained of.

MR. PRETYMAN: The Clyde Lighthouse Trust raised certain objections to the mooring of His Majesty's ships in the Kyles of Bute, which the Admiralty did not consider to be well founded, and so informed the Trust. It is not proposed to consult the Board of Trade on the matter. The mooring grounds for these ships were selected after careful inquiry as to their suitability, and with as much consideration as posssible for local interests.

South African War Contracts.

*MR. NORMAN (Wolverhampton, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any person has been reprimanded, dismissed, or otherwise punished in connection with any of the transactions to which public attention is drawn in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): No person has been, or will be, reprimanded, dismissed, or otherwise punished until a full inquiry has been made, and until his responsibility for any malpractice has been established. When this responsibility has been established the Army Council will immediately take such steps as may be necessary. Perhaps I may take this opportunity of informing the hon. Member, and the House, what is the actual history of these transactions. Many of the transactions appeared originally to be justified by the explanations given by the local military authorities. In 1904, however, attention was drawn by the Comptroller and Auditor-General to other alleged errors or malpractices; and in investigating these reason was seen for questioning the accuracy or relevance of the explanations previously accepted. The cases were, therefore, taken up as a whole and minutely investigated *de novo* by the newly formed Accounts Branch. On January 17th I was informed that, as a result of these inquiries, there was reason to view some of these transactions with great suspicion. On the same day, therefore, I decided to appoint a strong Committee, of which General Sir William Butler is the Chairman, to make a careful investigation into the cases, and to report to the Army Council. This inquiry has been proceeding since that date, and a large number of witnesses have been examined. I am fully alive to the necessity of relieving the Army from any general imputation of malpractice, and the House may rely upon it that individuals against whom misconduct or neglect of duty may be established will be dealt with without fear or favour. At the same time, I would point out that it is necessary to proceed with care where the reputation and character of individuals, whether in the service or not connected with it, are concerned. Perhaps I may remind the House that an officer who was selected for frequent animadversion by hon. Members, brought his case before a Court of law and obtained the withdrawal of the charge, and an apology. In conclusion, I may say that the best guarantee against incidents such as those now the subject of complaint is the establishment of a proper organisation for dealing with purchases, contracts, and payments in time of war. The Army Council are fully sensible of this, and last year established a new organisation expressly charged with the duty of dealing with matters of this kind in the field.

*Mr. NORMAN: I thank the right hon. Gentleman for his very full reply, but may I remind him that the Question referred only to the past, and many of the alleged malpractices are of very long standing.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I hope the hon. Member will pardon me for having made an addition to the actual Answer to the Question.

*Mr. NORMAN: I have already thanked the right hon. Gentleman.

*Mr. NORMAN: I beg further to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will furnish the names of the contractors mentioned anonymously in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General; and, in the case of any name not being given, will he state the reason for withholding such name.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): At the same time may I ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the names of the firms refered to in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, under the heading "Sales of Surplus Supplies as, A, B, and C."

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The reply to this and a similar Question by the hon. Member for West Newington, is that the names of the three firms are: Messrs. E. Stepney, Messrs. Meyer and Co., Messrs. Wilson and Worthington. I am aware of no reason for withholding the names of these, or of any other firm. I have already furnished them in response to a request by another hon. Member of the House.

*Mr. NORMAN asked if the names as now given corresponded with the alphabetical order of the anonymous contractors in the Report.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is a Question I am unable to answer now; perhaps the hon. Member will give notice of the Question?

*Mr. NORMAN: That is the whole point of the Question—to enable us to identify the contractors.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): Is it a fact that the names of two of the three contractors are on the list for 1904-5?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I must ask for notice of the Question; but it must not be assumed from the fact that firms are mentioned that it is proof that they are in any way guilty of misconduct.

Captain NORTON: Seeing that during the late war contractors who had been guilty of malpractices were replaced on the list, will the right hon. Gentleman take care that for the future the names shall be permanently struck off?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I make no admissions as to the correctness or otherwise of the hon. and gallant Member's statement.

*Mr. NORMAN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that quantities of stores, many of them of an imperishable nature, such as wire netting, sent out for the service of the troops in South Africa, after remaining for some time upon the quays of certain South African ports, were reloaded upon steamers and jettisoned at sea; if he can state the amount and the value of these stores; by whose orders they were thus destroyed; what sums were paid to the owners of the steamers for these services; and why such of these stores as were not of a perishable nature were not sold.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Nothing whatever can be traced at the War Office of the matter alluded to in the Question. I shall be much obliged if the hon. Member will communicate to me the source of his information to enable me to make further inquiries.

*MR. NORMAN: I will, so far as I am at liberty to do so.

*MR. MACONOCHIE (Aberdeenshire, E.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister a Question of which I have given him private notice, viz., whether he will expedite the discussion on the question of the liability of the contractors in regard to the disclosures made recently, as they are suffering severely by the delay.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I can quite understand the very great anxiety of all those who, even in the most distant way, have been touched in connection with the subject of these Army contracts to have a discussion in this House as soon as possible, and I can assure my hon. friend, as I assured the House last Thursday, that it is our earnest desire to bring on the discussion at the very first moment at which it can be fruitfully and profitably undertaken by the House. My hon. friend will, however, see, as the House, I think, sees, that to bring it on before all the facts are in such a state that the House can deal with them would be neither in the interests of the House itself, in the interests of the public, nor in the interests of the contractors; but I will do my best to meet my hon. friend's views.

Highland Light Infantry.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that dissatisfaction exists amongst the officers and men of the Highland Light Infantry at the arrangement under which the regiment is not brigaded with other Highland regiments, but has been assigned to a depot in the Lowlands of Scotland; and will he arrange for the depot of all Highland regiments to be in the Highlands.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I must refer the hon. Member to a reply which I gave to the hon. Member for Midlothian on the 8th instant,† from which he will gather that the depot of the Highland Light Infantry has been at Hamilton since 1881. There is no intention of making a change.

MR. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): Does the right hon. Gentleman still hold to the opinion that regimental depots must go?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, Sir; I do very strongly think it would be very greatly to the public advantage that the existing regimental depot system should be altered.

War Office Payment to the Rhodesian Railway.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when is he prepared, as promised, to deal fully with the payment of £60,000 to the Rhodesian railways contained in the Army Supplementary Estimate.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: This matter will arise whenever the Supplementary Estimates come on for discussion.

MR. BUCHANAN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, in making arrangements for the discussion of the Army Supplementary Estimates, opportunity will be given for a full statement upon the payment of £60,000 to the Rhodesian railways instead of the £24,000 offered last year?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I shall be glad to do anything in my power to meet the views of hon. Members, but the distribution of time between the different Votes is not within the control of the Government. It is impossible for me to give any pledge, not knowing how much time hon. Gentlemen may consider necessary or desirable for the discussion of previous Votes. In correction of a statement made at the previous sitting it should be understood that the Secretary of State for War will make his statement on the Army Estimates on the Motion for going into Committee.

MR. BUCHANAN: All I ask is that the Secretary of State for War shall have an opportunity to redeem his promise.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 706.

The War Office and the Wicklow County Council.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has received a copy of a resolution recently passed by the Wicklow County Council, to the effect that the council consents for one year to the by-laws submitted on behalf of the War Office, provided that the War Office pay to the general fund of the county council as compensation to the ratepayers of Baltinglass and the surrounding districts for the loss of user, and the stoppage of the roads around the Glen of Imaal range, a sum of £400 on or before the 30th April, 1905, for the year 1905, the question of paying for the costs incurred by the increased traffic on these roads to be arranged hereafter between the War Office and the county council, or, in lieu thereof, the sum of £60 anuually hitherto paid, with the arrears due, be secured to the council; and, if so, will he say whether the War Office accepts the conditions as laid down by the Wicklow County Council in the resolution.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have received a copy of the resolution referred to. The matter is under consideration.

Coolie Labour in Rand Mines—Enlistment at Canton.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Viceroy of Canton has again forbidden the enlistment in his province of coolies for the Rand mines; and, if so, if he will state what reasons have been given by the Viceroy for this action.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington): The Answer is, as far as I am aware, in the negative. The matter is without importance, as all recruiting for the Rand mines for some time past has been carried on in the North of China.

Dissatisfied Coolies on board ss. "Courtfield."

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is aware that the ss. "Courtfield," carrying 1,342 Chinese labourers for the Transvaal, was stopped at Singapore on 15th February owing to the Chinese refusing to proceed further, and that the Protector of Chinese of the Straits Settlements, accompanied by a police officer, boarded the ship at the request of the captain in order to pacify the coolies; and if he will state what was the cause of this occurrence.

Mr. LYTTELTON: I have received the following account of the occurrence from the Governor of the Straits Settlements by telegraph: "Captain of ship reported to Protector of Chinese that he believed that Chinese coolies were in a mutinous condition; he was advised to ask for police protection. European drill instructor and a few Sikhs taken on board during the night. Protector went on board next morning, and, on careful examination, found coolies very good tempered and quite content. Captain of ship and Agent reported further arrangements police protection unnecessary. Ship left next morning."

Indian Civil Administration—Appeal Rules.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India when any alterations or modifications were last made in the rules and regulations governing the submission of appeals to higher authorities over the orders and decisions of provincial officials and administrations in India, and if he will place upon the Table of the House a copy of the rules and regulations now in force; also if he will state how many appeals of this character were submitted for the consideration of the Secretary of State in Council during the six years ending 31st December, 1904, giving the number in each year separately, and showing how many of these were forwarded to the Secretary of State for orders, and how many were withheld in India, and how these statistics compared with the corresponding figures for the six years ending 31st December, 1898.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The last occasion when alterations were made in the rules governing the submission of appeals to the Government of India from the orders of subordinate authorities and to the Secretary of State in Council from the orders of the Government of India and the Governments of Madras and Bombay was in January last, when the rules as last revised were published in the *Gazette of India*. The rules will be found in the issue of that *Gazette* for the 21st January, 1905, which is in the Library; but I shall be ready to lay them on the Table if my hon. friend will move for them. The statistics asked for by my hon. friend cover a period of twelve years, and it will take some time to collect them.

Madras Plague Precautions—Kuppam Outbreak.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the successful action taken by the Madras municipal authorities in repressing a recent outbreak of plague in the fishing village of Kuppam; whether he is aware that the measures by which plague has been kept out of the city of Madras have met with popular approval; and whether he will invite the Government in other Provinces to follow the example of Madras, and to take measures of plague prevention in consultation with the municipal and rural local authorities.

MR. BRODRICK: I have seen accounts of the case, which reflects great credit on the local health officers. The hamlet, however, was very favourably situated for the early discovery of the outbreak, and for prompt and effective action to stop its spread. All Provinces in India have rules which prescribe that similar preventive measures shall be taken by Government officers in consultation with the municipal and rural authorities, and with the concurrence of the people. But the degree of success attained must necessarily depend on local circumstances.

Stamp Duty on Customs Bonds.

MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the incidence of the Stamp Duty on Customs Bonds, and particularly to the disadvantage at which small traders are placed by the present practice under which the holders of general bonds in the majority of cases are not required to pay Stamp Duty, while small traders not able to enter into a general bond are required to pay Stamp Duty on every single transaction; and whether, in the interest of the revenue and smaller traders, he could have this practice revised.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): Yes, Sir, my attention has been called to this matter and I am now considering it.

Penal Servitude Bill.

SIR ERNEST FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if it is intended to reintroduce this session the Penal Servitude Bill.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I am not prepared to reintroduce the Penal Servitude Bill this session unless I find on inquiry that it is likely to be treated as non-contentious.

Companies Acts—Committee of Inquiry.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether the Committee appointed to inquire into the Companies Acts has commenced its sittings; in what building the inquiry will be held; and whether it is open to the public.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Committee appointed to inquire into the Companies Acts began its sittings on the 23rd February. The inquiry is being held at the Board of Trade, but is not open to the public.

Learners in Scottish Post Offices.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that there are only four post offices in Scotland where learners are appointed by open competition; and, if so, will he consider the expediency of making the appointment of learner subject to open competition throughout the United Kingdom.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): It is the fact that there are now only four offices in Scotland at which learners are appointed by open competition. The competition system was adopted at those offices as an experiment; and the question whether it should be extended is under consideration.

MR. WEIR: It is a very bad experiment, working most unsatisfactorily.

Shetland Cable—Damage by Trawlers.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can ascertain if the damage to the Shetland cable was caused by trawlers working within the three-mile limit; and, if so, will he consider what steps it is advisable to take to prevent a recurrence of such mischief.

LORD STANLEY: It is not improbable that the damage to the cable to which the hon. Member refers was caused by trawlers. The question of how such damage can be avoided has received consideration, and I will see whether it is possible to take any further steps in the matter.

Physical Condition of School Children—Johanna Street Council School.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, on the occasion of his visit to the Johanna Street Board School, he found any children unfit to attend to the duties of the school in a proper way; whether he has any reason to think that Dr. Eichholz in his evidence before the Committee on Physical Deterioration exaggerated the proportion of such children; and whether public money is still spent at this school in providing instruction which the children cannot, from their physical condition, attend to.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): On the occasion of my visit to the Johanna Street Council School the children were attending to the duties of the school in a proper way, but I think that many of them might with advantage have been provided with a curriculum more suited to their capacities. I am not in a position to criticise the medical evidence of Dr. Eichholz, but I have good reasons for thinking that it may not be final. The school is still being conducted as a public elementary school.

SIR JOHN GORST: May I inquire whether the teachers were asked whether the children were capable of receiving their instruction.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I made careful inquiry into the condition of the school, and if the right hon. Gentleman wishes I will give him my conclusions.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will the hon. Gentleman answer the first part of the Question and say whether, on the occasion of his visit he found any children unfit to attend to the duties of the school in a proper way.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The children were all attending to the duties of the school. As I have said, I think many of them might have been provided with a more suitable curriculum.

SIR JOHN GORST: I beg to give notice that in Committee of Supply on the Education Vote I shall move the reduction of the grant for public elementary schools by £500,000 in respect of the children who are attending public elementary schools in a condition totally unfit to receive instruction.

Inter-Departmental Committee on the Physical Condition of School Children.

SIR JOHN GORST: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education, whether he will give the names of the Departmental Committee which the President of the Board of Education has appointed for the purpose of providing useful and precise information on the physical condition of children in public elementary schools and the date of their appointment; what methods the Committee have adopted for obtaining information more precise than that furnished to the Committee on Physical Deterioration by Dr. Eichholz and other witnesses; and to what use the information thus provided has been put.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: An Inter-Departmental Committee, consisting of Mr. H. W. Simpkinson, C.B., Assistant Secretary of the Board of Education, Chairman; Mr. H. Franklin Parsons, M.D., Assistant Medical Officer under the Local Government Board; Mr. C. Jackson, Chief Inspector of Elementary Schools under the Board of Education; The Hon. Maude Lawrence, Chief Woman Inspector of the Board of Education; Mr. R. Walrond, Senior Examiner of the Board of Education; with Mr. E. H. Pelham, Junior Examiner of the Board of Education, as Secretary, was appointed on March 9th to collect certain information as to the medical inspection of children in elementary schools, and as to the provision of meals for such children by voluntary agencies. I am sending the right hon. Member the terms of reference. I am not prepared to state the methods which the Committee will employ for obtaining this information. But I hope that they will provide information more thorough and precise than any which we at present possess; and will enable deductions to be drawn less indefinite in character than those which are supplied in the Report of the Physical Deterioration Committee.

Dr. MACNAMARA: May I ask whether this is a Departmental Committee appointed to consider or to revise the findings of another Departmental Committee?

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: No, Sir. It was appointed to collect facts which may be very useful.

St. Joseph's School, Nymphsfield, Gloucestershire.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that St. Joseph's School at Nymphsfield was opened on October 29th, 1900, at the suggestion of His Majesty's Inspector, and at the request of a majority of parents, Catholic and Protestant, because of the inefficiency of the Church of England school; that the inspectors have continued to inspect the school, have insisted on the conscience clause, and in other respects treated it as a public elementary school; that in February, 1903, the plans of the new school building were approved by the Board of Education; and whether, seeing that under the proposals made by the local education committee a heavy expense will fall on the ratepayers if the Church school is to be repaired, he will now direct the holding of a public inquiry into the whole matter.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: The Board and its inspectors from the outset always made it quite clear to the managers of the St. Joseph's School at Nymphsfield that it was not and could not be recognised as a public elementary school. In approving the plans for the new school building in February, 1903, the Board stated that no hope could be held out that the proposed school would become eligible for Parliamentary grants, and inquired whether the managers, in view of all the circumstances of the case, considered that they were well advised in proceeding further in the matter. The inspector also communicated with the managers to the same effect. The Board have considered the case and given their decision, which is final. There appears to be no reason for a public inquiry.

Ladies' Gallery—Lighting Arrangements

Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if, in view of the fact that in the Ladies' Gallery it is often quite dark, he will inquire into the possibility of lighting it up.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): The First Commissioner will give the matter his immediate attention.

Scottish Fisheries—Protection against Illegal Trawling.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether he is aware that the fishery cruisers at the disposal of the

Fishery Board for Scotland are insufficient for the protection of the interests of line fishermen from the depredations of illegal trawlers; and will the Secretary for Scotland consider the expediency of approaching the Treasury for the requisite funds for an additional cruiser.

*THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): I must remind the hon. Member that the £15,000 now available for marine superintendence is placed at the disposal of the Fishery Board in terms of Section 2 (3) of the Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1898, and marine superintendence is provided to the full capacity of the funds. No Vote is taken for this purpose, and the Secretary for Scotland does not therefore see his way to approach the Treasury for funds.

Scottish County Medical Officers of Health.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate how many county medical officers of health in Scotland now engage in general or consultative practice.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I am informed by the Local Government Board that the number is six.

Crofter Holdings in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state what progress has been made by the Congested Districts Board in their negotiations with the proprietor of the Island of Lewis for the sub-division of the farm of Aignish, Lewis, into crofter holdings, and the nature of any arrangements on the subject which may have been entered into.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The proprietor has selected tenants for the thirty-two crofts into which this farm is to be subdivided. Tenders have been invited for the necessary roads and drainage and also for the houses to be erected on the crofts.

MR. WEIR: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the latter part of the Question?

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: My Answer contains all the information I have.

Rents on the Culloden Estate, Ross-shire.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether he is aware that tenants under the Crofters Act, 1886, on the Culloden Estate, Muir of Ord, Ross-shire, have had fair rents fixed by the Crofters' Commission and arrears of rent cancelled, whilst their neighbours on the same estate who are leaseholders are being pressed for arrears of rent under a process of ejectment; and will he consider the expediency of so amending the law that both classes of tenants may be placed on an equal footing.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I learn that in the case of one leaseholder only, with whose circumstances the hon. Member is fully acquainted, have proceedings been taken. In one or two other cases where no payment on account of rent at the last collection was made, letters requesting a payment to account have been issued. The Secretary for Scotland does not propose to legislate in the sense suggested.

Crofters and the Highland Deer Forests

MR. LAMONT (Buteshire): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland will introduce legislation to compel the owners of deer forests in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland so to fence in their forests as to prevent deer from ravaging the crops of crofters on adjoining lands.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON; The matter is engaging the attention of the Secretary for Scotland, but he is unable to promise legislation this session.

The Scottish Fishery Board.

MR. LAMONT: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if the Secretary for Scotland can see his way to appoint one or more practical fishermen to be members of the Fishery Board for Scotland.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: When vacancies occur the Secretary for Scotland will give due consideration to practical knowledge in making his selection, but he cannot give any undertaking in the sense suggested by the hon. Member.

MR. WEIR: Is it not the fact that one member of the Board is the owner of a small ironmonger's shop in Rothesay and knows nothing whatever about fishing?

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I have no knowledge on the point.

MR. WEIR: Well, it is a fact.

Science Teaching in Irish Schools.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if elementary science, as recommended by the Committee of Manual and Practical Instruction, is about to be discontinued in primary schools with a view to cutting down Treasury expenses; and, if so, what is the actual annual cost of this branch of education, and the amount of the grant to be continued.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg also to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if, having regard to the fact that there were 8,700 schools and 13,100 teachers to be trained in experimental science, and that as yet only forty per cent. of the teachers are qualified in Part I. and only five per cent. in Parts I. and II. experimental science, owing entirely to the short limit of time allowed and the fewness of the organisers supplied, steps will be taken to carry out the recommendations of the Committee.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer these Questions. The teaching of elementary science will not be discontinued. On the contrary, instruction in this branch is progressing in national schools, and there is no reason to anticipate that it will diminish in the future. The Commissioners of National Education have not applied for a continuance of the service of six sub-organisers of elementary science after the end of the current financial year, and in accordance with an arrangement with the Treasury in the year 1900, the employment of these sub-organisers will accordingly terminate on the 31st inst. But the Treasury have sanctioned permanently the continuance of the services of the head organiser and of two of his assistants, and the grants for service apparatus have also been continued. In answer to the remaining inquiries in the hon. Member's two Questions, I beg to refer him to the published Estimates and to the reply given on the 7th inst.† to the Question of the hon. Member for St. Patrick's Division.

Land Purchase in County Limerick—Gascoigne Estate.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that applications for the sale of the Gascoigne Estate in and around Kilfinane, in the county of Limerick, have been lodged with the Estates Commissioners; and that a petition has been lodged with the Commissioners by the Town Tenants' Association of Kilfinane on behalf of the inhabitant occupiers of that town; and whether, seeing that untenanted land previously in the occupation of the landlord and situated at Spa Hill, near the town, has been lately broken into small applotments and assigned to the estate bailiff, thus creating a new tenancy and frustrating the intention of the Land Act of 1903, while other applotments have been advertised for sale by public auction, so that the landlord may have two profits, one from the tenant right, and the other from the purchase money to be advanced by the Estates Commissioners, he will say what action the Commissioners will take on the petition.

MR. WALTER LONG: This estate has not yet come before the Estates Commissioners. The petition referred to has been received and will be duly considered when occasion arises.

MR. LUNDON: Has any Department received an application in respect of this?

MR. WALTER LONG: Obviously I cannot answer such a Question without notice.

Land Act Administration—Rules and Regulations.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): On behalf of the hon. Member for Waterford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Government or the Lord-Lieutenant has issued any regulations, directions, or instructions, in correspondence or otherwise, to the Estates Commissioners, causing an alteration in any way of their policy or administration of the Land Act of 1903 in respect to evicted tenants, or the sales of estates, or any other matter connected with their administration of the Act; and, if so, whether these regulations, directions, or instructions will be laid upon the Table of the House, in accordance with the pledge given by the right hon. Member for Dover, on behalf of the Government, on July 1st, 1903.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 562.

MR. WALTER LONG: It was stated by my right hon. friend the Member for Dover on February 20th † that no regulations of the character mentioned in Section 23, Sub-section 8, of the Act had been made, but that communications of a Departmental and confidential nature had passed between him and the Commissioners. Having regard to the experience that has been obtained of the working of the Act, I am now considering whether the time has not arrived for formulating such regulations as are contemplated by Section 23 (8) and publishing them in the manner that may be deemed most satisfactory and convenient.

Irish Land Act Finance.

MR. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that under the Irish Land Act of 1903 the State is pledged to find the money required to enable the agricultural tenants on properties declared to be estates within the meaning of the Act, to purchase their holdings as soon as they have come to terms with their landlords, he will say whether the Act contains any provision for delaying such purchases beyond the period necessary for deducing title; if not, by what authority, and by whose order, are the loans now stated to be limited to £5,000,000 a year; is he aware that over 10,000 tenants are waiting for completion of purchases they have agreed to make; and will steps be taken during this session to provide at least £10,000,000 more stock before Parliament rises if that amount is required by reason of the success of the Act, and having regard to the rise in the value of the stock since the last issue.

MR. WALTER LONG: My right hon. friend the Member for Dover when introducing the Irish Land Bill on March 25th, 1903, said: "I say emphatically that it will be neither financially prudent, nor administratively possible, to expand these operations at a pace so high as to make us come to the City for more than £5,000,000 a year in any one of the first three years after the passing of this Bill. It could not be done." There is no express provision in the Irish Land Act, 1903, limiting advances by the National Debt Commissioners to £5,000,000 a year from the Land Purchase Fund. But that fund is financed by the issue of Guaranteed $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Stock, and Section 28, Sub-section 3, of the Act provides that "The stock may be issued at such times, in such amounts, and subject to such conditions as to payment of deposits, etc., as the Treasury may direct." It is the case that a large number of tenants are awaiting the completion of purchases which they have agreed to make. As to the latter part of the Question, I am not prepared to make any statement at present.

Rules of Commissioners of National Education—Instruction in the Irish Language.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of Rule 4 of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, which states that the Commissioners do not change any fundamental rule without the express permission of the Lord-Lieutenant, the Commissioners have sought for the express permission of the Lord-Lieutenant to change the rule relating to the payment of special fees for extra subjects so that, in future, no fees are to be allowed for Irish for pupils under Fourth Standard, and Irish is not to be allowed to be taught as an extra subject outside school hours by the ordinary teachers in schools which do not show merit; and whether, in view of the expression of opinion on this matter in this House twelve months ago, and the promises made by the Chief Secretary, the express permission of the Lord-Lieutenant to change this rule has been granted; and whether, in deference to Irish opinion, steps will be taken to have these restrictions on the teaching of Irish as an extra subject removed.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 609.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The hon. and learned Gentleman is correct in stating that the Commissioners are precluded from changing any fundamental rule without the express permission of the Lord-Lieutenant. But the rule, No. 123, under which fees for Irish as an extra subject outside school hours are paid, is not a fundamental rule. My right hon. friend the Member for Dover undertook to communicate with the Commissioners with a view to the removal of some doubts created by the Circular of January, 1904, and as a result of this communication a further Circular was issued in March. The terms of the latter were outlined by my right hon. friend on March 15th. I cannot give any undertaking that the conditions prescribed by this Circular, and which appear to me to be perfectly reasonable, will be withdrawn. They do not exclude children from obtaining instruction in Irish, nor do they impose undue restrictions on its teaching. It must be borne in mind that these Circulars do not in any way interfere with the teaching of Irish in national schools during school hours, for which, however, no special fee is payable. Irish may be taught during school hours to every pupil in every national school, provided the adequacy of the course of instruction in the ordinary curriculum is not thereby impaired or hampered. Correspondence has passed and is still proceeding between the Commissioners, the Irish Government, and the Treasury with respect to the adoption for a limited period of a modified scale of fees for Irish, instead of the existing fee of 10s. per pupil. In connection with this matter, I must point out that when the rule under which payments for Irish and other extra subjects was sanctioned in 1901, it was on the express understanding that the total payments for extras, including Irish, French, Latin, Arithmetic, and Geometry, would not exceed £2,000 per annum. It appears, however, that in 1904 no less a sum than £12,069 was expended in payments for the teaching of Irish alone. This is a matter which requires and will receive the serious consideration of Government.

Irish National School Teachers' Emoluments.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that by agreement signed between the Commissioners of National Education (Ireland) and those teachers who were in training at the time of the abolition of the results system, the latter had assured unto them the same emoluments as they would have received under that system; and whether he can stat by what authority the Commissioner have reduced the initial salaries so secured.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The agreement entered into between the Commissioners and the teachers in training does not contain any provision of the nature suggested. The form of agreement which was in use when the results system was abolished, and is still in use, is set forth in Schedule VII. to the Rules of the Commissioners. Teachers, as a rule, now receive higher incomes upon first being appointed to national schools than they received under the former regulations.

Iveagh-Pirrie Motor Scheme.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what development has taken place in the Iveagh-Pirrie scheme of motor traction in Ireland, and in how many of the seventeen experimental districts already surveyed and investigated has the scheme been put in operation.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I beg to refer the hon. Member to the replies given by my right hon. and learned friend to Questions on the same subject put by the hon. Member for South Down on the 2nd† and 9th instant.† I have no further information in the matter.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 187.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that a large number of officials in various Irish Departments were put by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover at the disposal of these gentlemen for this scheme, and are we to understand there is no result after all these years?

MR. WALTER LONG: The hon. Member must realise it is impossible for me to answer supplementary Questions as to which I have no knowledge of what has been going on during the last few weeks. If there is any information I can obtain for him I will inquire.

MR. FLYNN: We are not responsible for the change in the Irish Secretaryship.

King Harman Estate, County Roscommon.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Estates Commissioners to secure all the non-residential or grazing farms on the King-Harman Estate, county Roscommon, for redistribution amongst the tenants of uneconomic holdings; if so, will he explain why they are negotiating with Mr. Robert V. Stoney for the sale to him of three non-residential or grazing farms at Knockadoo, containing 78, 140, and 107 acres respectively; and whether, seeing the necessity that exists in this locality for securing untenanted lands, will he instruct the Estates Commissioners to secure these farms for the purpose of redistribution.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners are taking steps to secure certain non-residential farms on this estate for distribution amongst the tenants of small holdings. There are, on Mr. Stoney's holding, twelve sub-tenants, who are now purchasing their divisions. The Commissioners are considering the question whether they will make the advance sought by Mr. Stoney for the remainder of his holding.

Teachers in Irish Schools—Effect of New Rule.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the intention of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland to enforce Rule 127 (b) as given in the revised edition of 1905; and whether, in view of the disapproval of the proposed rule expressed by managers and teachers and to the probable effect of such in replacing trained male teachers by women teachers, he will order its withdrawal.

MR. WALTER LONG: The rule has not yet come into operation. It has been made solely in the interests of children under eight years of age, and the necessity for such a rule was emphasised in Mr. Dale's Report on primary education. At their meeting held on Tuesday last the Commissioners adopted a resolution defining a "suitable" school to mean a school in which there is adequate accommodation of a satisfactory kind, in which the teaching of infants is efficient, and in which the teaching staff is of the same religious denomination as in the neighbouring boys' school. The Commissioners further decided that in any case in which the enforcement of the rule would lead to the loss of an assistant teacher, such case will be specially considered on the application of the manager, and that boys over seven years of age who are fit to be enrolled in the 2nd Standard may be transferred to a boys' school.

Lislea National School, County Armagh.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the grounds upon which the National Education Commissioners refuse to appoint a local non-clerical manager of the Lislea No. 1 National School, county Armagh.

MR. WALTER LONG: When a vacancy arises in such a case as this, it is the practice of the Commissioners to recognise the clerical successor of the former manager. The school is being conducted satisfactorily under the present temporary manager, and the Commissioners do not propose to recognise a permanent manager until the successor of the former clerical manager has been appointed to the locality.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 929.

MR. LONSDALE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this gentleman resides twenty-five miles from the school?

[No Answer was returned.]

Mr. Hancock's Estate, County Roscommon.

MR. JAMES O'KELLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether proposals for the sale of the estate of Mr. Hancock, county Roscommon, have been received by the Estates Commissioners; whether he is aware that the landlord has refused to sell to six tenants living on the townland of Lackan; and, if so, whether the Commissioners will refuse to sanction a sale unless these tenants are included in it.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Estates Commissioners have received no originating application or request in respect of the sale of this estate. They have no knowledge of the circumstance referred to in the Question, and can express no opinion thereon until the facts are fully before them.

Clarke Estate, County Cork.

MR. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state to whom the untenanted land acquired by the Estates Commissioners on the Clarke Estate, county Cork, has been allocated; and whether, after provision is made for the evicted tenants on the estate, preference will be given to the claims of evicted tenants in the immediate neighbourhood who are unable to obtain possession of their former holdings from the present occupiers.

MR. WALTER LONG: The question of the allocation of untenanted lands on this estate is still under consideration by the Estates Commissioners, who are making arrangements for the reinstatement of persons who have been evicted from holdings on the estate. The claims of other evicted tenants in the neighbourhood will subsequently be considered.

Local Government Inquiries—Shorthand Writer's Fees.

MR. REDDY (King's County, Birr): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the District Council of Birr have recently refused to pay the shorthand writer's fees for attending a recent Local Government inquiry, on the ground that such fees were excessive and could be avoided if the services of capable local reporters were utilised instead of bringing a man specially from Dublin; and, if so, whether, having regard to the continued complaints made by local authorities against the continuance of this practice at public inquiries, he will take steps to prevent it in future by employing local men.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Local Government Board have received no information to the effect stated in the first part of the Question. The fees for shorthand writing in the case referred to were not increased by the employment of a shorthand writer from Dublin, as no travelling expenses were claimed or allowed. It is the practice of the Board's inspectors to select local shorthand writers for this service when competent men are available, but it would be undesirable to lay down a hard and fast rule that none but local men should be employed.

Mr. Mowbray's Estate, County Monaghan.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the estate of Mr. C. F. Mowbray, Errigal, Truagh, county Monaghan, is in process of being sold under the Land Purchase Act of 1903; whether the vendor has consented to restore three out of four evicted tenants; and if the Estates Commissioners can take any action to secure that Mrs. McKenna, evicted in 1899, shall be restored to her holding previous to the sale being completed.

MR. WALTER LONG: No proceedings for the sale of this estate have yet come before the Estates Commissioners. An application for reinstatement has been received from Mrs. McKenna, and this will be duly considered in the event of proceedings for sale of the estate.

Cautwell Estate, County Dublin.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a considerable portion of the Cautwell Estate, in the county of Dublin, which has been purchased by the Estates Commissioners, has been sold by them to a person who was neither a tenant on the estate nor an evicted tenant, nor a small tenant on a neighbouring estate; and, if so, by what authority such a sale was authorised.

MR. WALTER LONG: This estate, which was purchased by the Estates Commissioners under Section 6 of the Irish Land Act, 1903, has been sold to six persons. Two of these persons were tenants on the estate and at the same time tenants on an adjoining estate; two others were evicted tenants; and the remaining two were the representatives of deceased evicted tenants. The provisions of Section 2 (1) apply to each of these purchasers.

Butler Estate, County Dublin.

MR. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in disposing of the Butler Estate, in the county of Dublin, due consideration will be given to the claims of the small tenants on adjoining estates for an enlargement of their holdings, and of evicted tenants in that county.

MR. WALTER LONG: This estate was purchased by the Estates Commissioners under Section 7 of the Irish Land Act, 1903, for the purpose of reinstating evicted tenants, and the lands have, accordingly, been distributed amongst three evicted tenants.

Butson Estate, County Galway.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a few months ago negotiations were in progress between the tenants on the Butson Estate, county Galway, and the nominal owner for the purchase of untenanted land on the estate; that the Land Judge was selling to Mrs. Butson 800 acres for £12,000; that Mrs. Butson offered to sell to the tenants, for the purpose of enlarging their uneconomic holdings, 300 acres for over £6,000; that the negotiations have fallen through because the tenants refused to purchase at the price demanded; and that these tenants are now being proceeded against for the hanging gale; and, if so, can he state at what date the hanging gale was incurred.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am informed that the sale to Mrs. Butson of 800 acres of land had been completed before any question arose as to the resale by her of 300 acres, part thereof, to the tenants. The Land Judge had no power to compel Mrs. Butson to resell the land, nor could he exercise any control as to the price demanded. The negotiations with the tenants having fallen through, the receiver has been instructed, in the usual course, to take proceedings for the recovery of the arrears of rent actually due.

MR. KILBRIDE: Will the right hon. Gentleman answer the last line of the Question? Is it forty years ago?

[No Answer was returned.]

Strokestown District Inspector of Police.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction existing in the Kilglass district, county Roscommon, by reason of the fact that the district inspector of police at Strokestown brings his dogs and ferrets on the lands of Clooneen to kill rabbits, with the result that ewes in lamb have been chased about and cattle driven over the fences; and whether, in view of the reduction of the police force now going on in Ireland, he will recommend the abolition of Strokestown as a separate district and its amalgamation with a neighbouring district.

MR. WALTER LONG: The district inspector states that he has never had his dogs on these lands, and the suggestion that sheep and cattle have been chased by them is therefore unfounded. There is no intention to abolish the district station at Strokestown.

Irish Civil Service "Junior Clerks."

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, as the term junior clerk is not recognised by the Civil Service Commissioners, he will state to what class of officials the Department of Agriculture applies the term; and whether it is correct to describe as such the Catholic gentlemen who have eleven years service under the Crown, and whose work (the drafting and writing of correspondence, interviewing callers, and conducting of registries) requires initiative and training.

MR. WALTER LONG: The term "junior clerk" is a popular designation of clerks who are in the lower grades of the Civil Service.

Newport District (Mayo) Police Surgeon.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether the doctor who was appointed police surgeon for the districts of Newport, Glenhest, and Mallaranny, county Mayo, in succession to Dr. Gill, late of Newport, resides in Westport, the town to which Dr. Gill has removed, and for which he was asked to send in his resignation, being outside the above police districts; and will he explain why the successor to Dr. Gill, who resides in Newport, did not get the appointment.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The hon. Member has on to-day's Paper two unstarred Questions which bear on this subject, and, with his permission, I will deal with all three together. My right hon. and learned friend has recently informed the hon. Member what were the circumstances in which Dr. Gill was required to resign. It is the fact that the gentleman who has been appointed to succeed him as medical attendant at the stations named resides at Westport, but, unlike Dr. Gill, he holds no appointment which could interfere with his attendance on the police. There is no rule which requires that Constabulary medical attendants should reside in the districts for which they are appointed. The appointment of these gentlemen rests with the Inspector-General, who consults the interests of the men concerned and makes the best selection possible.

Appended are the unstarred Questions referred to:—

DR. AMBROSE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether police surgeons in Ireland must live within the district to which they are appointed.

DR. AMBROSE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland why, in appointing a police surgeon for the district of Newport, county Mayo, did the police authorities select a man eight miles outside the district.

School Teachers' Pay—Newry Memorial.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of Education have received a memorial from members of public boards in Newry, asking that those teachers who were in the training colleges when the new rules were issued in 1900, and who were bound by agreement to enter the service of the Commissioners after training, should be remunerated in accordance with the scale which was in operation at the time the agreements were entered into; whether these teachers have received special consideration, as promised in the footnote to the new rules; and, if so, what is the result of the special consideration.

MR. WALTER LONG: The memorial referred to has been received by the Commissioners. The agreement signed by teachers on entering a training college binds them to follow the calling of teacher in a public elementary school, and imposes on them the liability to forfeit the cost of their training in the event of their failing to fulfil a probationary service of two years as teacher. There is nothing in the agreement which binds the Commissioners to employ such teachers under any particular set of rules. The interests of teachers who were actually in the Commissioners' service prior to 1900 were, as a matter of fact, preserved by the new rules. Any such teachers who were in training colleges in 1899–1900 received special consideration when their incomes were fixed under the new rules; and this special consideration consisted in the promotion in grade to which they would have been entitled by reason of their having entered training colleges. Other students in training in 1900, who had never been employed as principal or assistant teachers under the Commissioners, had no claim to special consideration.

Howth Harbour Dredging Operations.

Mr. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been drawn to a resolution of the North Dublin District Council, in which the complaint is made that the dredger at present employed in dredging Howth Harbour deposits the stuff which it removes in such a place that the incoming tides wash it all in again to the mouth of the harbour; and whether, if there be foundation for this complaint, directions will be given by the Board of Works to have the operations of the dredger referred to conducted with a view to the effective discharge of the work which it is set to accomplish.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.): No such resolution has been forwarded to the Board of Works. The Board's officers carefully selected the position in which the dredger deposits and I understand there has been no occurrence such as described in the Question.

Mr. CLANCY: The Question will be repeated, for the resolution I refer to in it has been published.

Dublin Port and Docks—Dockmastership.

Mr. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade under what circumstances is Mr. Manders, first mate of the Commissioners of Irish Lights steam yacht "Alexandra," serving under the Dublin Port and Docks Board in the temporary capacity of dockmaster; how long has he been employed in this position; and whether his services under the Irish Lights Board will be considered as continuous for the purposes of promotion and pension

Mr. BONAR LAW: The Board of Trade are informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights that this officer being a candidate for the appointment of dockmaster under the Dublin Port and Docks Board, the Commissioners gave him leave of absence to act as the temporary dockmaster during the illness of the present occupant of the position, and that Mr. Manders, who pays the salary of his substitute on the "Alexandra," has now been on leave for four months. Should he return to the service of the Commissioners after a period not exceeding twelve months, his service under them would, in accordance with the practice ruling in the Civil Service, count as continuous, but he would not be entitled to count for pension purposes the time during which he was in the employment of the Dublin Port and Docks Board. The question of promotion is one entirely for the Commissioners.

Ballina Post Office Staff.

Mr. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if, in view of the fact that in February, 1904, after due inquiry, it was decided to increase the staff in Ballina, county Mayo, post office by six male sorting clerks and telegraphists, and that this decision has not yet been acted upon, he will state the cause of delay; and if he can say when it is proposed to make the necessary additions to the Ballina staff.

Lord STANLEY: The hon. Member appears to be under a misapprehension. Proposals for changes in the staff at the Ballina office are under consideration, but there is no question of increasing the number of male sorting clerks and telegraphists by as many as six. I hope that a decision will be arrived at shortly.

Higher Education in Ireland.

Mr. CLANCY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that, while no grant whatever out of Imperial funds has been made for the purpose of a system of higher education of which Catholics in Ireland can conscientiously avail themselves, the grants in aid of the University Colleges in England have in the last twenty-five years risen from an annual sum of £15,000 per annum to a sum of £54,000 per annum in 1904–5, and that it is now proposed by the University Colleges Committee to increase such annual grant to the sum of £100,000 per annum, he will say whether that recommendation has been endorsed by the Treasury; and whether it is the intention to include such increase in the Estimates for the coming financial year.

MR. CLANCY: I beg also to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that University Colleges in England, apart from the Universities which are in receipt of grants out of Imperial Funds, number upwards of a dozen, and that there are not any such institutions in Ireland of which Catholics can conscientiously avail themselves, it is now contemplated to increase the grants to those institutions to £100,000 per annum; and whether, if it is so contemplated, he will refuse to sanction any increase in the grants referred to while no provision is made for the higher education of Catholics in Ireland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There are some adjectives in the hon. Member's Question which suggest controversy; and I will content myself by saying to the hon. Member that the actual amount which I understand to be on the Votes for higher education in Ireland is £33,416, and it is proposed to give for English higher education £100,000, which will appear on the Estimates. I ought to add that under the English system four times the amount is required from local subscriptions before anything is derived from the public funds.

MR. CLANCY: Does the right hon. Gentleman mean to say, in mentioning the figures regarding Ireland, that there is any single institution in that country of University character of which an Irish Catholic can conscientiously avail himself?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That is really a very difficult Question for me to answer. I understand that English Roman Catholics go to Oxford and Cambridge.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): Is Scotland to have any share in the increased grant?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The original Question has no reference to Scotland. I must ask the hon. Member to put his Question on the Paper.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Did I correctly understand the right hon. Gentleman to answer to the effect that the provision on the Estimates for higher education in England was to be raised from £54,000 to £100,000 this year and that no additional provision whatever is to be made for Ireland?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Yes, Sir, that is true.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: We will see about that.

MR. CLANCY: Has the Prime Minister recanted his views on Irish University education.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No; although few people may be prepared to agree with me, my opinion in regard to Irish University education stands as it will be found in a published letter which I have never withdrawn.

Fiscal Reform—India and the Colonial Conference.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether any representative of the Government of India will be summoned to the Colonial Conference of 1906.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: If the calling together of this Conference and the delegation to it of any question of fiscal reform should take place under the auspices of the present Government, of course India will be represented.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend The Military Manœuvres Act, 1897." [Military Manœuvres Bill [Lords.]

NEW BILLS.

LEASEHOLDERS (PURCHASE OF FEE SIMPLE) BILL.

"To give facilities to Leaseholders for the purchase of the Fee Simple of their holdings," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Channing, Mr. Whiteley, Mr. Field, Mr. McArthur, and Mr. Benn; to be read a second time upon Monday, 5th June, and to be printed. [Bill 108.]

ALLOTMENTS (LONDON) BILL.

"To facilitate the provision of Allotments by the London County Council," presented by Mr. Benn; supported by Mr. John Burns, Mr. Crooks, Dr. Macnamara, and Mr. Lough; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 109.]

SUPPLY [2ND ALLOTTED DAY].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1905–6 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £21,500,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, viz. :—

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS III.

Ireland :—

	£
Land Commission	70,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—

Colonial Office	25,000
Local Government Board	86,000

CLASS I.

	£
Royal Palaces	26,000
Osborne	7,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	43,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings	25,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	33,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	15,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	54,000
Revenue Buildings	200,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain	180,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	90,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	8,000
Peterhead Harbour	10,000
Rates on Government Property	260,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	110,000
Railways, Ireland	35,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—

House of Lords Offices	7,000
House of Commons Offices	15,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments	40,000
Home Office	66,000
Foreign Office	25,000
Privy Council Office, etc.	3,000
Board of Trade	85,000
Mercantile Marine Services	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	3
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries	55,000
Charity Commission	15,000
Civil Service Commission	17,000
Exchequer and Audit Department	25,000
Friendly Societies Registry	3,000
Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	5
National Debt Office	6,000
Public Record Office	10,000
Public Works Loan Commission	5
Registrar-General's Office	17,000
Stationery and Printing	330,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	30,000
Secret Service	40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland, Office of	25,000
Fishery Board	5,000
Lunacy Commission	3,000
Registrar-General's Office	2,000
Local Government Board	5,000

Ireland :—

Lord-Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary for Ireland	12,000

	£
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	80,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office	1,000
Local Government Board	27,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	17,000
Registrar-General's Office	5,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey	6,000

Class III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	28,000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	18,000
County Courts	2,000
Police, England and Wales	13,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	350,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	130,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	12,000

Scotland :—

Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters Commission, Scotland	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	37,000

Ireland :—

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	32,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	43,000
County Court Officers, etc.	45,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	60,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons, Ireland	54,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,000
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500

Class IV.

United Kingdom and England :—

	£
Board of Education	7,000,000
British Museum	70,000
National Gallery	10,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	3,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	24,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	60,000

Scotland :—

Public Education	770,000
National Gallery	5,000

Ireland :—

Public Education	760,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	2,500
Queen's Colleges	2,500

Class V.

Diplomatic and Consular Services	250,000
Colonial Services	595,000
Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	35,000
Cyprus (Grant in Aid)	15,000

Class VI.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	300,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	1,500
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	— —

Class VII.

Temporary Commissions	20,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	14,587
Repayments to the Local Loans Fund	— —
Ireland Development Grant	100,000
Visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India	— —
Total for Civil Services	£14,070,000

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	250,000
Post Office Telegraphs	2,200,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£7,430,000
Grand Total	£21,500,000."

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) moved a reduction of the Vote by £100, and said his object in so doing was to call attention to two points in connection with the operation of the Land Act. The first was with regard to the publication of any instructions that might have been given to the Land Commissioners by the Irish Executive, and the second was the early submission of a Report relating to the administration of the Land Act. The fact that an enormous amount of money was required for the purposes of the Act, and that the greater part of it was to be advanced out of public resources in order to secure the carrying out of the great objects of that Act, justified their demand for full information as to the manner in which the Act was being administered. The question of the failure or success of the Act depended mainly on its administration, and, therefore, the policy pursued and the principles adopted ought to be made known to Parliament in order that it might have an opportunity of criticising them. The question of individual decisions by the Land Commissioners in the cases of particular estates, whether they affected unjustly landlord or tenant, and whether they had good or bad results, whether also they were dilatory or expeditious—these questions, he said, sank into absolute insignificance when compared with the more general principles upon which the administration of the Act was based. What they wanted to know was what were the fundamental principles which had been from time to time laid down as to the mode in which the Land Commissioners should proceed in the discharge of their very important duties. They wanted to know what general regulations or instructions were made for the Commissioners by the Executive Government.

It was quite true that the Act might be made or marred by its administration. How important, then, was it to know the general lines upon which it was being administered, and of how much more importance was it that they should get that information in the early days of the operation of the Act. He made no apology whatever, therefore, for pressing on the attention of the Committee the vast importance of this question, for he conceived it to be of vital consequence to Parliament and to the public to get the information for which he was now asking. So vital did he look upon it, that rebuffs would not deter him from continually pressing for it on all possible occasions. In his opinion publicity was the very essence of the successful administration of the Act, and they believed that that was the only security which Parliament had for proper control over this matter. The discharge of their duties in an efficient manner by the Commissioners largely depended upon a clear understanding of the relations between themselves and the Government, and the extent and degree to which such powers as Parliament had given them were being controlled by the action of the Executive Government. It was impossible, satisfactorily and intelligently, to deal with the action of the Commissioners and of the working of the Act without the publicity to which he had referred. They had had a debate on the 9th of that month in which the Attorney-General, answering for the Irish Government in the absence of the new Chief Secretary, pointed out that the right hon. Gentleman was not there to state the view which he might deem it his duty to take on that particular subject. He was glad to hear on that occasion that the question was to be left an open question. Nobody could doubt it was within the province and competence of the Executive Government to communicate to Parliament any general instructions or directions which it might have adopted with reference to the Estates Commissioners. Nobody could doubt either that the matter was one quite within the competence of the Chief Secretary to deal with. Neither could anybody doubt that it was entirely within the competence of that House to determine what information it might require from time to time.

The case which he was making out was greatly strengthened by what occurred on the occasion of the recent debate, when, undoubtedly, the feeling was in favour of the information for which they asked being furnished. The right hon. and learned Gentleman on that occasion read a number of extracts from the proceedings in Committee on the Land Act, when the question of placing the Commissioners under the control of the Lord-Lieutenant was under discussion. The right hon. Gentleman on that occasion moved the omission of the words which provided for that control, and, in the course of his remarks, indicated that it was the intention of the Government that the work of the Commissioners should be administrative and that they were not to occupy a position of independence or detachment such as was occupied by many Irish Boards. That view was assented to on the Opposition Benches, and they quite believed that the result of the debate and of the agreement thus arrived at would be to ensure that they would have full information which would enable them to discuss the work of the Commission, and would give really effective Parliamentary control. The clause, as originally drafted, provided that the Commissioners should be under the control of the Lord-Lieutenant, and that they should act in accordance with such regulations as he might make. Now, the danger of that was that it might indicate a day-to-day and hour-to-hour control of the details of the work of the Commissioners in concrete cases. He thought that very objectionable, because it brought in questions affecting persons and private interests, questions which it was extremely dangerous to place in the hands of the Executive. Indeed, it was absolutely impossible in the nature of things for such details to be effectively supervised by the Executive Government. It might act for evil sometimes, and certainly very little good was likely to come out of it at any time. The result of the discussion was that the Chief Secretary agreed that there should be no interference by the Executive with the details of concrete cases. The Executive held that the best prosperity of the country and the efficient working of the Act depended on the Commissioners devoting themselves to administrative work, and the Government, in the end, accepted words making it clear that that was the desire of the House. Then came up the question of the House knowing what instructions or regulations the Government might from time to time prescribe. An Amendment was moved, and received the assent of the right hon. and learned Gentleman, providing that they should be laid before Parliament. The Chief Secretary intervened in that debate and confirmed what had fallen from the Attorney-General, and eventually the clause was passed in a confessedly imperfect state on the understanding that, later on, words should be inserted which would give effect to the intentions of the House. On a later clause an Amendment was moved by the Chief Secretary, and carried, which provided for the laying before Parliament of the Reports of the Estates Commissioners; and that was all that was done to carry out the agreement.

He did not think that the course that was taken in reference to this matter of the rules was one conformable to the traditions of Parliament with reference to understandings made in the House. The Attorney-General frankly acknowledged that there had been a departure from the original understanding, that he had, in fact, been thrown over; that the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary had changed his mind, as he had a right to do, and had come to the conclusion that it was inexpedient to follow the course which had been agreed upon. Now they did their business in that House very largely upon conventions, and the orderly transaction of the business of Parliament very much depended upon the carrying out of understandings arrived at across the floor of the House it was indeed most advantageous that such understandings should be observed with the strictest good faith. They were matters of honour, and though they might be repugnant to a very large number of Members, yet, when once an arrangement had been made, every one considered himself bound by it. Pledges made by the Government with reference to the business of the House with regard to legislation were always held to be extremely sacred. He would be the last to impute any selfish or conscious divergence from that standard of honour on the part of the late Chief Secretary, especially at that period of his political career, for he thought it would be ungenerous to take even a legitimate advantage of Parliamentary warfare at such a time. He could only suggest that there must have been some misconception on the part of the right hon.

Gentleman, not of what he had agreed to, but as to the extent of the honourable obligations of the Parliamentary convention.

He had observed that such obligations were sacred. Of course, he did not mean to suggest that if a Minister came to the conclusion that a grave mistake had been made, by which the public interest would suffer, he was absolutely bound to be the instrument for perpetuating that mistake. He might then be under the painful necessity of having to retire from the obligation. But he did not think that that consideration applied in the present instance; and he did hold that it was the incumbent duty of the Minister, if he found himself in any difficulty in carrying out an agreement, to take the House into his confidence before abandoning it. Under such circumstances the Chief Secretary should have asked to be released from his undertaking, and it would then have been his duty to place matters in as nearly as possible the position they would have occupied if the arrangement had not been made, and to give Members an opportunity of taking the judgment of the House upon the proposition to which he had acceded. The question came up on July 17th, when the Bill was being hurried through, and entreaties were made that there should be no discussion. A statement that it was intended to depart from the arrangement, and an opportunity to move another Amendment, would have put a different face on the matter, but the statement was not made nor the opportunity given, and, consequently, the clause passed Report in its present form. Those circumstances ought very favourably to dispose the Administration to do the thing they were free to do, but under no obligation to do, and to consider long before they decided not to keep in the spirit the pledge given to the House of Commons, and which it was believed had been carried out.

These Commissioners were no ordinary administrative officers. They were administrative officers, but they were charged with duties of the very highest character, and it was the duty of the House of Commons to assert for itself the right to such information as would enable it from time to time to judge how the Land Act was being worked. The right hon. Gentleman had suggested that the instructions were confidential and that there were no Departmental instructions in the usual sense to be given. The instructions were general instructions as to the course to be pursued by the Commissioners in the discharge of their high duty, and those who knew what an atmosphere of doubt and suspicion surrounded Dublin Castle in the minds of the people of Ireland would be the first to realise what injurious consequences would result from the refusal of this information. It was no doubt true, as the Attorney-General had stated, that the Commissioners were officials of the Government, and that the Government were responsible for their actions. But this was a special case, in which the confidence was one which those who made the communications were entitled, and, in his opinion, bound to disregard. The Government might take the responsibility of directing the Commissioners as to what they should or should not do in certain cases. What harm could possibly be done, how could the principles of Ministerial responsibility be violated, by laying down the wholesome rule that, as these instructions were of a general character, they should come before Parliament, and that Parliament should see what were these general principles of action or inaction which the Government had prescribed to the Commissioners for dealing with these enormous interests. Where did the inconvenience lay? Members of the House of Commons, who on the whole theory of the case had to criticise not the Commission but the Government, the latter being held responsible for everything that was done or not done, were entitled to know what came from the Government and what was the act of the Commissioners. It was of the utmost consequence that the House should know the instances in which the Government had taken the direct responsibility of action, and had themselves practically laid down the lines upon which decisions should be given. At present the House had no information at all, and they did not know what information they were going to get from the Commissioners themselves.

It was generally believed that there had been a considerable amount of interference. The belief might be unwarranted, but such beliefs were bound to arise, especially in Ireland, and the only way of checking them was to give the cases in which there had been interference, and to declare that in all others the Commissioners had been perfectly free. What reasons could the Government give for withholding the information? What evil would be done by publication? The Act was being administered, and it was admitted that there were communications, but it was said that they were Departmental and confidential. If they were such as affected the conduct of the Commissioners with reference to the general principles upon which they should administer the Act, he denied that they were such Departmental and confidential communications as should be screened from the light of the House of Commons, or so dealt with that the House of Commons could not pass judgment upon the giving of them. Therefore, having regard to the origination of the matter, as evidenced in the debates to which he had alluded, to the character of the Commission, to the interests at stake, and to the great advantage of Parliament seeing what the rules were, he hoped the Chief Secretary would pause long before—by refusing to publish the Papers—he deepened the already existing suspicion, created an obscurity about what ought to be open and clear as day, and surrounded with uncertainty, perplexity, and confusion the operations of the Act. If the right hon. Gentleman was to have a quiet Chief Secretaryship it was necessary that his administration should be marked by the utmost clearness and candour. The Report of the Commission was long overdue, but within the last half-hour Members had been able to obtain an "advance proof of appendices, so far as printed, for *ad interim* Report of Estates Commissioners for period from commencement of the Act to December 31st, 1904." In that document, however, he had not yet been able to find a single statement on a subject of the greatest importance as affecting the working of the Act, viz., the evicted tenants. To hand over to them these imperfect appendices was really a bad joke, and it could not be seriously supposed that it would do them any good. Valuable as they might be to those who had time to study them, they were of little value unless they were illumined by the language of the Report itself. The tail—with the exception of one or two joints—had been produced, but the body was missing.

Why had they not got this Report? What did the Attorney-General say upon this subject? He told them that he regretted hon. Members were not in possession of the Land Commissioners' Report showing the lines upon which the Land Act had been worked. With even a deeper pang Irish Members shared that view. The Attorney-General further stated that he had been requested to press the Estates Commissioners to furnish a Report, and he agreed that a Report ought to be furnished. He stated that he had made representations to this effect, and that he had been informed that the Commissioners were doing their utmost to bring out a Report, but the framing of such a Report must take time. He should have thought that the appendices would have taken most time, but they had got them. The Report indicating the procedure, summarising the operations of the Commissioners, and illumining them as to the course they had taken in all the particulars in which this new departure had been made, vitally important as it was, need not take so very much time. He could not see why this Report should take so much time, and they ought to know what their general propositions were and the principles upon which they had proceeded. He ventured to say that for the satisfaction of the country and the House, the good working of the Act itself, and the standing of all concerned, the Report should have been laid upon the Table of the House as soon as possible after the House assembled. The Act prescribed that these Reports should be laid on the Table as soon as possible. They wished to know exactly what the principles of action were. The Commissioners had done a great deal of work, for they began very early, and therefore there was not very much late work to do in compiling the Report up to December 31st. The right hon. Gentleman was asked whether the Report had been revised by anybody else, and whether the Treasury would revise it; and he replied that he did not know, but the Treasury would have to see it because it dealt with public money. He presumed, however, that the Treasury would not prescribe the general principles upon which the Act was worked, but would only deal with those things with which the Treasury was immediately concerned. The language of the right hon. Gentleman indicated that this Report was not to be limited merely to an explanation of the figures, but that it would give the lines upon which the Commissioners had worked the Act. They wanted the Report to be a full one. No doubt the Report had been in type for a long time, and probably it had been bandied about from one office to another. He did not know whether the Report would be the expression of the opinion of the Commissioners as they originally made it, or whether it would be the opinion of higher authorities. Probably parts would be excised or added to, but the House might at least be told the general rules upon which the Act had been administered and the principles of their proceedings.

This was a Vote taking money on account for five months, although the old practice used to be to take enough money for two months. Therefore the Government were asking for sufficient money to last them until nearly the end of the session. Taking into account all the devices for restricting the liberties of the House, it might be considered that except under extraordinary circumstances this might be the only occasion upon which they would be able to refer to this question. He was pleased to say that they now had an opportunity of delivering their minds upon the freedom of action of the Commissioners before their Report had been submitted to its last polish at the hands of its editors. As to discussing the working and administration of the Land Act without knowing what the instructions were upon which it had been worked, and without the Report of the Commissioners as to what they had done, that was another farce to which they were asked to submit. They complained of the lack of these instructions and of this Report, and in order to emphasise that view he begged to move a reduction of the Vote.

Motion made and Question put, "That Item, Class 3, Vote 16 (Irish Land Commission), be reduced by £100." — (*Mr. Blake.*)

Mr. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) said this would probably be the only occasion upon which they could debate this question. Unless the Government were able to give them a very good explanation as to why they were not in possession of the only document which could give them full information they could not discuss this matter with anything like confidence. This delay seemed to him to be almost unaccountable. More than a year and a half had elapsed since the Act came into operation and they were still without any Report of how it was working. The production of the Report was absolutely necessary in order to obtain a proper understanding of what had actually been done under the Act. He did not know any other Department of Government of which it could be said that a year and a half after the passing of an important Act there had not been available a full account of the transactions under that Act. Everybody recognised that this was not an ordinary Act of Parliament. It was a revolutionary Act which marked the commencement of a new stage in the agrarian history of Ireland. Obviously it was essential that they should know what was going on at the very earliest moment in order that, if there was anything wrong, they might be able to correct it in time, and before any wrong practice became stereotyped. They knew very well that in many matters relating to Ireland one false step led to another, and a precedent was thus laid down. When the precedent was found to lead in a wrong direction the answer of the Minister was that the thing had been commenced and that he must now follow on the same lines of policy. That was a very dangerous thing if anything of the kind had occurred in this matter. The third reason for debating this matter at length was that the duty lay upon the Irish Members to see that the interests of their country were safeguarded. The duty which lay upon the

Government was very important, but he should almost be inclined to put as scarcely second in importance the duty of the representatives of the vast majority of the people to see that their interests were being safeguarded in the working of the Act. They were entirely unable to say whether that was being done or not. The Report had been delayed, and no general statement of principles had yet been vouchsafed.

He felt sure that the view which had been indicated, rather than expressed, by the hon. Member for Longford was correct, namely, that this was not the fault of the Commissioners themselves. The Report drawn up by them had long been in print, and it had been submitted, he supposed, to the Chief Secretary, the Law Officers, and, above all, to the Treasury, and all the Departments they represented were having their finger in the pie and examining the Report with the view of determining what should be its eventual form. That was an extraordinary act on the part of the Government. If it was really true that the Report had been long since before the Government, and that they were altering it in the way suggested, it would not be the Report of the Commissioners. If the Government wanted to supervise the Report, they ought to have done as was done in the case of the Congested Districts Board, and other public bodies like the Local Government Board. They should have made the Chief Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or the Secretary of the Treasury a member of the body, and he could have signed the Report and taken the responsibility. If it were really true, as suggested by the hon. Member for Longford, that it had been submitted to other Departments to be revised, he said that was a more or less questionable proceeding for which an apology ought to be made on this the first occasion on which the act had been committed. The duty of the Irish Members did not rest in protesting simply against the delay that had taken place in the publication of the Report. It was their duty to press that it should be immediately presented, and, moreover, that it should be regularly presented in future. He and his friends would not tolerate this hugger-mugger in future if, by protesting, they could prevent it. They must have the document that dealt with such vital matters concerning their country, and with such vast sums of money as were charged upon Ireland itself. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to take care that this Report should be presented regularly and in time in future, and warned him that if that was not done things would be made very uncomfortable for him in the House.

As to the character of the Report, he wished to say that the document which had been presented that day was not the sort of document they wanted. It was a mass of figures which it would take, not a couple of hours, but probably a couple days properly to analyse. They did not want to know half so much how much land had been sold and how much money had been advanced in this or that county in a period ending at a particular date, as to know the general lines on which the Commissioners proceeded. It was no use to tell them that £2,000,000 had been advanced for purchase in Leinster, £500,000 in Munster, about the same sum in Ulster, and only £250,000 in Connaught. That did not convey to their minds the general lines on which land purchase was proceeding in Ireland. He regarded as of far more importance the question whether those advances had been made for the purpose, say, of the purchase of untenanted land, for the purpose of increasing the small economic holdings that existed not only in the West, but all over Ireland, or for the purpose of reinstating the evicted tenants who were to be found in all parts of Ireland. To fling at their heads at the very commencement of the debate a mass of figures from which they could not make the wildest possible guess as to the lines the Commissioners had gone on was entirely unfair on the part of the Chief Secretary, and would certainly justify the Irish Members in demanding a fresh day for considering this matter whenever the full Report was available.

In regard to the instructions supposed to have been given under the Act, he did not think it was open for the present Chief Secretary to repudiate any of the general principles or declarations made on important matters by his predecessor. On

July 1st, 1903, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover, who was then Chief Secretary, said in the House—

> "During the long conferences which preceded the introduction of the Bill, and on almost every clause, he had laid the greatest stress on the administrative character of the new Commission. That the new Commission should be of an administrative character was not merely his personal opinion, it was an integral part of the policy of the Government. He could not have persuaded his right hon. friend to sanction the use of large public funds for purely executive work except upon the basis that those who administered them were to be in a very real sense executive officers, subject in all matters of policy, and the economic and proper use of the funds, not only to the control of the Government but to the criticism of the House."

What did that mean? Surely that could only have meant one thing, namely, that whatever general instructions might be given to the Commissioners would be laid on the Table of the House or otherwise made public, so that they might criticise them in the House. The right hon. Gentleman had stated that day in answer to a Question, if he rightly understood him, that he was considering whether or not the instructions under Section 23 of the Act might in future be published.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): That is not exactly what I said. I stated that I was considering whether the time had not arrived both for the drawing up of those regulations and for their publication in some form which might seem most convenient.

MR. CLANCY said he understood that no regulations had been framed up to the present, and also that they would be framed and that they would be published.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not say in what form the publication would be made. It might be made in one or two ways; and there might be a difference of opinion even as to whether the time had arrived for the regulations to be drawn up in a formal manner, and what might be the most convenient step to take in making them public.

MR. CLANCY said he was somewhat puzzled by that answer.

Mr. Clancy.

MR. WALTER LONG said he did not mean to puzzle the hon. Gentleman. All he meant was that there might be publication of the regulations in the *Gazette* or by their being laid on the Table of the House. He did not mean to commit himself to one particular course or the other; but to the principle that when they were drawn up they would be made public in one form or the other.

MR. CLANCY said he was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman. That answer was perfectly explicit. He understood that the regulations would be made, and that they would be published either in the *Gazette* or presented in some form to Parliament. But instructions might be given to the Estates Commissioners other than under the 23rd Section of the Land Act of 1903. He wanted the right hon. Gentleman to say whether or not instructions had been given to the Estates Commissioners dealing, in a general way, with the administration of the Act and which would not be included in the regulations under Section 23. He could conceive that a letter might be written to the Estates Commissioners in reference to a particular subject of great importance, and that the instruction laid down in such a letter might never be formulated in the form of a rule, and yet that it might be of the vastest practical importance. Common rumour prevailed that such a thing had taken place. He, himself, at the commencement of the session last year, felt bound to call the attention of the House to a rumour current that the law advisers of the Crown in Ireland, including the right hon. and learned Gentleman opposite, had volunteered opinions to the Estates Commissioners which they had no right to offer, and that this was done under instructions from the Treasury with a view to curtailing the beneficial operation of the Act. He wanted to know whether an instruction or direction to the Commissioners, on their asking the advice of the Law Officers of the Crown, was given, and that the Commissioners were to abide by it; whether that instruction had been communicated by letter or otherwise; whether such instruction as that would be regarded as a regulation under Section

23; and whether it would be published. If it was not to be a regulation under Section 23, and therefore not to be published, then he should regard the concession just made by the right hon. Gentleman as absolutely futile and useless.

Now, he had heard it remarked that these communications were confidential. He held that they had no right to be confidential. They dealt with matters of the greatest public importance, and dealt with them in the general way in which the Act ought to be administered —with matters relating to classes of estates or properties. As his hon. and learned friend the Member for Longford had said, if they were in existence at all, reports, instructions, letters addressed by the Chief Secretary, or the Secretary to the Treasury, or the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or even the Prime Minister, dealing with matters of that sort were to be regarded as confidential. Ministers had no right to claim such a privilege. Every one of the letters ought to be published. He asked the plain question —had any letters of the kind been sent by the Government?—he did not care who was Chief Secretary. This was a continuous Administration, and the present Government were responsible for the acts of the Chief Secretary.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Hear, hear!

Mr. CLANCY: Then let them say whether they had instructed the Estates Commissioners, by letter, about public matters—not dealing with individual trivialities, as, for instance, whether a certain person was to be promoted to a certain office—he did not care a button about that—he did not care who was appointed to the Estates Commission, except it was a gross partisan who had already disqualified himself from office under the State. But what he did care about was the broad general lines upon which this Act had been or was to be administered; and whether in any particular cases any steps had been taken in contravention of what ought to be the general policy on the matter by the Government of the day; and whether, above all, the will and view of the Commissioners themselves had been overborne by those in authority over them.

He would take, as an example, certain town holdings in Ireland. He read some time ago a statement that, in consequence of the action of the Commissioners in sanctioning the sale of certain town holdings which formed a part of a property which was substantially agricultural, a certain instruction had been given through the Commissioners not to buy any more of it or advance public money for the further acquisition of these town holdings. Were such instructions given, and would they be among the regulations to be framed under Section 23, and would they be published? Because, if any such broad general instructions were given, he held they were a violation of the spirit of the Act, and, under certain circumstances, would delay the settlement of very serious agrarian disputes. It was well known that in various parts of the country small villages and towns had come under the operation of the Act, and that these belonged to estates where there had been agrarian trouble. Now, a great part of the inducement to the landlords of these estates to sell to their tenants would be taken away if money was not to be advanced for purchase. He admitted that there might be cases, in view of the limited amount of money at the disposal of the Commissioners, in which a restrictive policy might be justifiable; but to lay it down as a general rule that, because money was scarce, or for any other reason, no money was to be advanced for the purchase of holdings in small towns or villages coming within the Act was against the policy and spirit of the Act, and ought not to be tolerated by the House.

One of the reasons why he had wished to see the Commissioners' Report and study the lines on which the work of sale and purchase had proceeded, was to learn whether or not precedence in making advances for sales and purchase had been given to certain classes of estates. Everyone knew that in nearly every county of Ireland certain estates gave trouble on agrarian questions to the Executive Government. It was that fact which furnished the argument for all the Land Bills which had been passed. Reason and justice had nothing to do with the passing of any Land Bill by the House. It never had been; it had always been expediency, and a low kind of expediency at that. It arose from a sense of fear, of the danger of the peace being broken. It was that which led British Ministers, no matter to what Party they belonged, to touch the land question in Ireland, even if it involved the advance of money. Was it not, then, obvious, even from the English point of view, that precedence should be given in settling the Irish land question, and these agrarian disputes, to those estates to which the operation of the Act might most usefully be applied. He was referring to cases where there were evicted tenants in large numbers, and where there were many uneconomic holdings, as well as large areas of thousands of acres of untenanted land given up to sheep and cattle. He should like to know whether or not instructions had been given to the Estates Commissioners as to securing precedence in such cases. In what order had the money been distributed. Was it by priority of application? A question of that kind was of much greater importance than the ill-digested mass of figures which had been issued that day. He was all the more curious as to whether or not any rules or instructions had been given to the Estates Commissioners, apart from regulations under Section 23, before there was a denial which seemed to be volunteered by the Law Officers.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said that there was no foundation for the suggestion. It was purely imaginary.

MR. CLANCY said it was very odd that the right hon. Gentleman did not give that answer to him last year when he asked who was the man in the iron mask who had written the letters.

MR. ATKINSON said he did not know anything of the letters referred to, or who sent them.

MR. CLANCY said that the right hon. Gentleman appeared to have been very badly treated. The right hon. Gentleman ought to have retired in indignation. From the very foundation of the Act there had been confusion. Sometimes it appeared in the shape of a legal opinion; and sometimes in a letter from the Department. He hoped an explicit answer would be given to all these questions which would at once solve the rumours which were afloat.

There was a further question. Complaints had been continually made as to the delay which had taken place in the fixing of fair rents. The minimum was from two or three years after the application; and if an appeal were lodged a further three years would be added. Without exaggeration, quite a third of the statutory period might elapse before a fair rent was fixed. That was ridiculous; and he submitted that the Government were entirely to blame. He would tell the Committee the reason why. Last year there was a change in the constitution of the Sub-Commission. Formerly, a legal Commissioner sat with two lay Commissioners; but last year the constitution of the Court was changed to one legal and one lay Commissioner. If the then existing staff had been retained under that arrangement, manifestly double the work would have been accomplished; but the Government immediately dismissed thirty or forty Commissioners; and that, of course, defeated the object the Government had in view in changing the constitution of the Court. That was done for the purpose of making good the policy of the late Chief Secretary that he would save in administration many thousands of pounds a year in order to pay for the bonus. In his opinion, if the Government wanted to save, they might have accomplished their object much better by a considerable reduction of the Royal Irish Constabulary. Even with the reduction that had taken place, nine-tenths of the force had nothing to do except walk round the by-roads. It was a positive disgrace that a lot of able-bodied men should be maintained out of public funds and have no duties to discharge. It would have been better to have cut down the Constabulary; and to have left the Commissioners as they were. He desired again to protest against the delay in the publication of the Report of the

Estates Commissioners; and he hoped the Chief Secretary would commence his career by making a frank and candid explanation regarding the instructions which had been given to the Estates Commissioners.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid) said there was only too much ground for the belief that in some parts of Ireland the United Irish League was exerting far too great an influence upon the decisions of the Estates Commissioners. In a Question which he had addressed to the late Chief Secretary he had drawn attention to the Maher Estate which had recently been sold to the Estates Commissioners and divided up. He was informed that the vendor of the estate intended that the land, which was largely untenanted, should be divided up amongst the villagers, most of whom held conacre and other small quantities of land of poor quality. But this benevolent intention was largely frustrated by the intervention of the United Irish League which, it appeared, exercised so much influence upon the Estates Commissioners. These holdings were given to the leading officials and to the prominent members of the League, many of whom lived at a considerable distance from the estate, whilst those persons living in the immediate vicinity who were not in favour with the United Irish League were shut out from the distribution altogether. He should like to give a few details showing how the distribution of this estate had been carried out. The estate was sold to the Estates Commissioners in July last. In that month, Father Murray, who was the parish priest, furnished the Commissioners with a list of fifty small farmers whom he considered were most suitable and most deserving, in order that the farms should be divided amongst them. This list was approved by the late owner, and on August 7th Father Murray, at the request of the president of the local branch of the United Irish League, also sent the Commissioners a list of about fifty names furnished by the League; but Father Murray in furnishing this second list took care to state that he was in no way responsible for it, nor did he approve in any way of this second list. On January 4th of this year the Estates Commissioners inspector called upon Father Murray and informed him that he must reduce his number of names from fifty to nineteen. Father Murray at once consented to do this; and he did so, selecting the most suitable and deserving people. The inspector of the Estates Commissioners then proceeded to announce his decision to the various people who were present; and he was informed that when he did so he was threatened with a great deal of intimidation from the United Irish League because certain of their friends had not been included in the list. At any rate, the disorder at the meeting was so exceptional that the final selection was postponed for two days. On that same day (January 6th)—and this was a rather important point in this matter—a meeting was held in the herd's house. The inspector of the Estates Commissioners was present and Father Murray's list was revised, other most deserving cases being struck out. This arrangement was at once ratified by the inspector, and he would like to give the Committee some details concerning the men who got land under this arrangement.

The whole estate comprised 447 acres. The president of the local branch of the United Irish League, a working mason, who lived three or four miles away from the Maher Estate, and who already had sixteen acres as a subtenant on another property, got some eighteen acres. His colleague, the treasurer, a tailor, living in the village with his father, was handed twenty acres; yet another colleague a prominent member of the South Westmeath executive, who occupied twelve acres on another property, was allotted about sixteen acres. Another president—this time of the labour league—got fourteen acres, though he was a labourer, and though his house and garden were valued at five shillings a year only. A second labourer, who occupied with his father a union cottage, had fourteen acres thrust upon him. A third labourer, in the occupation of a house and garden valued at ten shillings, received eighteen acres. A coachman received over twenty acres, and a working blacksmith, occupying in the village a house and garden valued at twenty-five shillings, was given fourteen acres. It was quite unnecessary to prolong this list. There was one feature about it which must surely strike every hon. Member, and that was that the men who were not farmers and who had no means of stocking their holdings had been placed in possession of lands simply because they happened to be members of certain political organisations. He concluded that that was part of the pernicious policy of attempting to smother disloyalty by kindness; a policy which, he might remind the Committee, had aroused considerable indignation among the Loyalists of Ireland. But in this case the action of the Estates Commissioners had pleased no one except the individuals who had benefited through their connection with the League. The villagers who had been shut out from the lands to which they had the first claim were highly indignant, and had gone the length of levelling the fences on the lands to mark their indignation. The parish priest also—the Rev. Father Murray—whose advice was first taken and then thrown on one side in favour of the advice of the League, had written a letter in which he declared that only six tenants living on Mrs. Maher's property and in the very immediate neighbourhood got land; while the principle which was at first laid down by the inspector that labourers, artisans, those living at a distance, and sub-tenants, would be excluded, was violated in every particular. He thought this case deserved the attention of the Government. In his opinion they ought to institute a thorough investigation, a sworn inquiry, into the proceedings at the herd's house when the list of claimants was settled under League domination. It was important not only that landlords should sell their estates, but that the land, when sold, should be apportioned amongst those who were best entitled to it, and not amongst men whose first and only qualification appeared to be membership of a political organisation.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said the first thing the new Chief Secretary would do well to understand was the meaning of the word "loyal," and not to rely too much on men whose loyalty was measured by the amount of the cheque they obtained from Dublin Castle. He hoped that the right hon. Gentleman, who had been in Parliament a great number of years and who had himself had a great agricultural experience both as a landed proprietor and as Minister of Agriculture, would take up this matter as a practical farmer; that he would look at it from the point of view of the interests of both the landlord and the tenant, and that for the very short time that his term of office would last he would try and do justice as between man and man, and would not lean towards one class which would betray him at the earliest moment. The hon. Member for Mid-Armagh, when speaking of a political organisation, meant the United Irish League, but if the hon. Gentleman had been in Parliament in 1881, he would have recollected the words of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham that if there had been no Land League there would have been no Land Bill. If he might paraphrase those words, he would say that if there had been no United Irish League there would have been no Land Purchase Act of 1903. The late Chief Secretary in introducing that measure made a great speech, one of the leading features of which was that these Estates Commissioners were not to be excluded from the privilege of Parliamentary criticism. The very essence of their position was that they were to be subjected to it. But another essential feature of the programme was the restoration of the evicted tenants, and he challenged the recollection of the House to say whether he was not correct in saying that that Act would not have been passed had it not been understood that they were to be reinstated. What had happened? Large powers with reference to the administration of the Act as it affected evicted tenants were inserted in the Act, and the Commissioners were perfectly willing to act upon them. Why were they not allowed to do so? After all these millions of money had been ladled out to the landlords, what was the position of the evicted tenants? Four thousand five hundred and fifty applications had been made and forty-six only had been dealt with, and the tenants restored either to the farms they previously held or economic farms of the same size. That was how the Commissioners had discharged their duty. He hoped, after the favourable Answer to the Question asked him that day, the Chief Secretary would place the instructions asked for on the Table.

MR. WALTER LONG said that what he said was that he would consider the desirability of formulating those regulations and of laying them on the Table.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said it was necessary that the House should have the rules which had been laid down for the guidance of the Commissioners so that they might apportion the responsibility. Then, if the Land Commissioners went wrong because of the instructions of the Chief Secretary, they would not spare the right hon. Gentleman; while if the Commissioners went wrong of their own accord they would be open to the criticism of the House. Why, then, would not the right hon. Gentleman lay on the Table the memorandum referred to by the late Chief Secretary? For proper criticism and discussion it was absolutely essential that the House should know precisely what were the relations between the Commissioners and the Executive Government. The right hon. Gentleman would commence his tenure of office wisely, honestly, and honourably by stating clearly whether his predecessor had, rightly or wrongly, taken a course intended to burke debate and prevent the supply of information in reference to the work of the Estates Commissioners. The Attorney-General was a gentleman who, in private affairs, would not dream of breaking a pledge, but in this matter of Government policy he undoubtedly had done so. On July 1st, 1903, the right hon. and learned Gentleman promised in the most absolute manner that all regulations framed by the Government under Sub-section 8 should be laid on the Table, and that an Amendment embodying the undertaking should be inserted on the Report Stage. On March 8th, however, the right hon. Gentleman said the Government had thrown him over. But the right hon. Gentleman had no right to throw himself over. He was not only a backer of the Bill, but a representative of the tenant-farmers, and how could he reconcile his action with his own pledged word and his duty to the tenant farmers of North Derry? The late Chief Secretary had no right to change his mind after a pledge had been given on his behalf. In order to show exactly the position in which the Estates Commissioners were towards Parliament, and the grave disadvantage to which the House would be put if instructions given to the Commissioners by the Government were not communicated to Parliament, he would read an extract from a speech delivered by the late Chief Secretary on July 1st, 1903. The right hon. Gentleman then said—

> "That the new Commission should be of an administrative character was not merely his personal opinion; it was an integral part of the policy of the Government. He could not have persuaded his right hon. friend to sanction the use of large public funds for purely executive work except upon the basis that those who administered them were to be in a very real sense executive officers, subject in matters of policy, and the economic and proper use of the funds, not only to the control of the Government, but to the criticism of this House."

If the Government controlled the action of the Commissioners in a way not known to the House at large it would be impossible for Parliament to debate their policy, and that, in a matter involving the use of enormous public funds and of the good relations between landlords and tenants, was a serious consideration. It was not the way to treat the Grand Inquest of the nation. Ten millions of money had already been ladled into the pockets of the landlords, but so far as the reinstatement of the evicted tenants was concerned the Act had been a dismal failure. What excuse had the right hon. Gentleman to offer for the Administration, who were acting badly not only to the House of Commons and the people of Ireland, but also to the Commissioners themselves? Was the right hon. Gentleman going to work this Act in the interests of the people or in the interests of the clerks in Dublin Castle? Was he going to be a Minister himself, or to minister through clerks? If he was going to be a Minister himself he should do the honest and proper thing, produce this document, and give an assurance that all the communications in reference to the policy and administration of the Act should be placed before the House.

Another matter urgently requiring attention was the appalling block in the Land Court. It would be fully permissible, under the provisions of the Judicature Acts, for the right hon. Gentleman to get other Judges from Irish Courts who were doing nothing to help Mr. Justice Meredith with these appeals and to expedite public business. It had been stated—he did not know with what truth—that the Commissioners had obtained legal advice from the Law Officers in Dublin Castle. If that were so, it would be a matter for the strongest criticism, not only of the Law Officers of the Crown and the Chief Secretary who allowed it, but also of the legal Commissioners themselves, because under the Land Act of 1903 the Estates Commissioners were empowered to ask advice on questions of law, not of legal politicians, but openly and publicly of the High Court of Judicature. His own feelings in the matter were perfectly well known and he did not think much good would come out of it. He had always hoped for the best and had welcomed conciliation, and he had never opposed any generous acts in reference to the Irish landlords, although he knew the Irish people would have to pay for them. He had, however, done all this under the supreme belief that that awful sore in Irish public life, namely, the unfortunate position of the evicted tenants, would be remedied. Up to the present everything had been worked for the benefit of the landlords, and everything for the relief of the distress of the victims of the Plan of Campaign had been ignored. The right hon. Gentleman must have an intelligent appreciation of these difficulties. He might not be very successful as Chief Secretary, but he might be able to do good between man and man and see that justice was done without the progress of the Act being obstructed by the officials at Dublin Castle. The right hon. Gentleman might be a successful Minister for Ireland as compared with the disastrous failures which had gone before him, but the first thing he would have to do was to do what was right in regard to the administration of this Act. The right hon. Gentleman was credited with possessing the apostolic gift of suffering fools gladly, but he hoped he would endeavour to remedy the difficulty of which he had complained by allowing other Judges to assist Mr. Justice Meredith. He thanked the House for the patience with which they had listened to him, and he assured hon. Members that he would not have intervened except that his heart was touched by the manner in which their hopes had been shattered by the administration of this Act, for it was another of the many Acts which were meant well but which had been obstructed and murdered in its administration and had been worked in the landlords' interest by the officials at Dublin Castle.

MR. WALTER LONG: I think it is desirable at this stage that I should say a few words in reference to the points which have been raised, for more than one reason. In the first place it seems to me that, upon the examination I have been able to make in connection with the two main subjects raised here this afternoon, namely, the delay in the presentation of the Report, and the question as to whether or not the regulations issued to the Estates Commissioners are to be laid on the Table and made public, there is considerable misapprehension. I gather from the speech of the hon. Member for South Longford and one or two other speeches which have been made that there is in some quarters an idea that the delay in the issue of the Report — which has naturally caused much inconvenience to hon. Members from Ireland, as it has also to those responsible for the government of Ireland and for the defence of this Vote—has been due to some mysterious proceeding on behalf of the Executive Government, and that the Report has been going through a process of trimming in order to put it into a form more acceptable to those who are responsible for it. ["Hear, hear."] I can assure hon. Gentlemen that there is no foundation whatever for that suggestion. The facts, briefly and baldly stated, are that communications have been passing between the Estates Commissioners and the Treasury, not in regard to the precise matter that should be in the Report, for which naturally the Estates Commissioners must be responsible, but as to the form that Report should take. I am assured that not only is there no foundation for the assertion that the Report is being trimmed to suit the views of the Executive, but that it has not yet reached the stage at which it would be possible for any such treatment to be accorded to it. The Report has been delayed owing to reasons which cannot be wondered at. The Estates Commissioners have had a vast task to perform, which, although, no doubt, they undertook with persons experienced in the work, yet they had inevitably to approach it without any accurate knowledge of the form the work would take, or as to the way in which it could be best and most economically and efficiently performed. Therefore I do not think that we ought to wonder that there has been delay, which seems unreasonable to some extent, in the production of the Report, but it has certainly not been due to any act of omission or commission on the part of the Irish Government, and there has been none of that improper treatment to which reference has been made. I have heard with some feelings not only of surprise, but also of regret, the contemptuous repudiation of the tables of statistics which, by my directions, were issued to hon. Gentlemen to-day. It is not my fault, or the fault of the Executive which I represent for the first time to-day, that there has been delay in the presentation of this Report. These tables were ready, and it occurred to the Irish Government that it might be advantageous that hon. Members should have all the information we had, and we could not give the Report because we had not got it. There is absolutely no foundation for the charge that the delay has been caused by any attempt or desire to trim the Report to suit our own views.

MR. CLANCY: Is the Report in type?

-MR. WALTER LONG: No, it is not in type? [AN HON. MEMBER: Is it in manuscript?] I do not believe it is in manuscript as regards a portion of it. The Report is in course of preparation and will be ready very shortly, and I shall do everything I can to expedite its production. I hope it will be in our hands within a few weeks. I think it is a little hard to blame those responsible for the delay when it is remembered how heavy has been the burden of the work which has fallen upon them during the first year of the working of the Act. [NATIONALIST cries of "Oh, oh!"]

The other point is the publication of the rules. I have already said in answer to a Question by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford to-day that I have done my best to examine this question both as to its local aspect and from its historical point of view. I do not think that there need be any contest as to the statement of fact we have heard to-day. So far as I have been able to learn, the view given by the hon. Member for Longford and the hon. Member for South Donegal is quite accurate as to what took place during the Committee stage of the Bill and during the subsequent Report stage, but there is some little misapprehension as to which of the regulations it is that was meant. As hon. Members opposite are aware, there are two sets of regulations, those issued by the Commissioners to their inspectors and those I propose to lay on the Table at once. Then there are the regulations referred to in the subsection, namely, those issued by the Executive Government to the Commissioners, and these are the regulations to which reference has been made this afternoon. It is alleged that regulations which come under this sub-section have already been issued by the Executive Government. An answer has been given by my right hon. friend the Attorney-General that no regulations answering to those described in this sub-section have up to the present time been issued. Under the language of Sub-section 8, as the hon. Member for Longford pointed out during the Committee stage of the Bill and again to-day, two duties are imposed upon the Executive Government under the general control of the Lord-Lieutenant and acting in accordance with such regulations. Now the regulations described here, as contemplated by this sub-section, and referred to by hon. Gentlemen opposite, I am authorised to say have not been issued.

I have been asked, Are these regulations going to be made, and, if made, will they be full and complete? I have yet a great deal to look into in connection with this Act and the general administration, and therefore I am not in a position to speak with the vast experience which my predecessor had. I do not think anyone will blame my right hon. friend the Member for Dover for these instructions not being published while he was Chief Secretary. When he was asked a Question about this he stated that they had not had the full experience which was required for the issue of the instructions. I do not hesitate to say that the time has arrived when these regulations can be formulated, and, being formulated, they ought to be laid before the country. I was asked by the hon. Member for North Longford whether they would be full and complete. Most certainly they will. These regulations will, as contemplated, deal generally with the broad principles on which the Act was to be administered, and I conceive, therefore, that they will contain everything covering the whole ground governing the administration of the Act. I cannot conceive it possible that they should be open to the criticism the hon. Gentleman has suggested, namely, that they would contain only a portion of the instructions, and that the more important, and perhaps the more interesting, would have to come out in another way. I hope that that, at all events, will be a satisfactory answer to the Question I have been asked as to the publication of the regulations. I am now considering whether they cannot at once be formulated, but so soon as they are drawn up in full they will be published in one form or another—in the *Gazette*, or in some way which may seem most desirable and convenient.

The only other question raised in this debate has been the question of the evicted tenants.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: The Land Commissioners.

MR. WALTER LONG: I mean in regard to the Act of 1903.

MR. CLANCY: I asked the right hon. Gentleman questions as to what were the instructions of the Government to the Estates Commissioners, what was done in regard to precedence, and also whether instructions were given as to purchase in towns.

Mr. Walter Long.

MR. WALTER LONG: I am not in a position to say what instructions have been given in regard to these questions. I may state that the policy of my right hon. friend the late Chief Secretary in regard to the purchase of town property is one which seems to commend itself to the Irish Government. It is obvious that the difficulty surrounding the question will not be so much the purchase as the re-sale without proper security for a loan. That is the foundation of the whole thing. Then as to the precedence of the evicted tenants.

MR. CLANCY said he had mentioned the question of precedence being given to the purchase of untenated land. His suggestion was by so doing to enlarge the small uneconomic holdings and to reinstate the evicted tenants.

MR. WALTER LONG: All I can give is the information I have received. There is no foundation at all for the suggestion.

MR. CLANCY: What suggestion?

MR. WALTER LONG: The suggestion the hon. Member made just now, namely, that there had been instructions given by the——

MR. CLANCY: I made no insinuation at all. I simply asked for information whether the Commissioners in purchasing estates gave precedence in these cases or not.

MR. WALTER LONG: My right hon. friend the Attorney-General for Ireland believes not, so far as his information goes.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): Do the Estates Commissioners deal with the estates in the order in which the applications are made?

MR. ATKINSON: So far as I know that is the rule, and, so far as I know, no instructions have been given to the Estates Commissioners on the subject.

MR. WALTER LONG: It has been suggested that the Act has not done as much as it ought to have done for the evicted tenants. It has been suggested by one or two speakers that the evicted tenants have not been put in the position which my right hon. friend the Member for Dover contemplated. Of course, again, I can only draw my inference from what he said on that subject when he was carrying his great Bill through the House, and when he made it perfectly clear, that important as unquestionably the question of the evicted tenants is, the Act was in the first instance for the sale of land to tenants in Ireland, and that, therefore, the evicted tenants question must not take priority, but must be ancillary to the great object of the Act, which was the transference of ownership from the landlord to the occupier. If that is a correct representation of my right hon. friend's views I do not think it is fair to blame us because we have acted on that line, and still believe that policy ought to animate those responsible for the administration of this great measure.

The hon. Member for South Donegal has complained of the glut in the Land Courts, and made one or two suggestions for its removal. I am afraid it is true that there is such a glut, which is very much to be regretted, although I am not quite sure that it is so serious as we have been led to suppose. Obviously it is a matter which calls for attention, and I can assure the hon. Gentleman that it will receive attention. The hon. Member for Armagh has referred to a certain case as to the facts of which there appeared to be considerable controversy. The hon. Member has said that in this particular case occupiers of farms have been selected from men living at a great distance to the detriment of men living on the spot. If that is correct it is obviously contrary to the object of the Act, and I will inquire into the matter and ascertain the facts.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): The Attorney-General for Ireland gave all the facts showing that the statements made in respect to this estate by the hon. Member were very misleading.

Mr. LONSDALE: No, no!

Mr. WALTER LONG: In that case there is no need for the hon. Member to be anxious about it. Perhaps I may be allowed to examine the facts for myself.

Mr. LONSDALE: All I ask is that there should be an inquiry—a sworn inquiry if necessary—into the proceedings in the herd's house.

Mr. WALTER LONG: My hon. friend must realise that I shall not undertake to hold a sworn inquiry until I have had an opportunity of inquiring into the subject myself.

Mr. LONSDALE: Hear, hear!

Mr. WALTER LONG: With that assurance I hope hon. Members on both sides will leave the matter for the present, although I cannot expect my answers will have been satisfactory to all those interested. I can assure them that in connection with one difficulty, namely the publication of the Report, I shall do all in my power to expedite it, as I, as strongly as anyone, desire to see it published.

Mr. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said the Act of 1903 had been in operation for eighteen months. It dealt with £112,000,000, of which £100,000,000 was primarily secured by the ratepayers of Ireland, and, in default of them, guaranteed by the Imperial Exchequer. It was an Act which the House and the general public were entitled to expect to be carried out with great strictness and care. He had not a word to say of the defence made by the present Chief Secretary for Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman had just been installed to his responsible office, and it was quite impossible that he should have made himself master of the facts and circumstances which gave rise to the present discussion. Not only did the Act deal with these enormous interests; but in the money Estimates before the Committee there was an amount of £150,000 as expenditure for its administration. That was an additional reason why everything should have been done with great care and attention. Hon. Members other than Irish might not be aware what the staff was to carry out the Land Act. It consisted of two Judicial Commissioners, four Estates Commissioners, five assistant legal Commissioners, twenty-seven permanent assistant Commissioners, twenty-seven temporary Commissioners, five deputy registrars, two inspectors, a secretary, and an immense number of first, second, and third-class clerks. This Act had been in operation since November 1st, 1903, yet the regulations contemplated by it had never been made. What explanation was there of that? Sub-section 8 of Section 23 said that—

> "The Estates Commissioners, in carrying out the foregoing provisions of this Act, shall be under the general control of the Lord-Lieutenant, and shall act in accordance with such regulations as may be made by him from time to time."

Of course, such regulations must be in writing; and it was inconceivable to him to have it stated by the right hon. Gentleman opposite that, up to this hour, no such regulations had been reduced to writing. Of course, if they had not been made, they could not have been laid on the Table of the House. But, as business men, what excuse could the Government give for these regulations not having been made long ago? Further, the Estates Commissioners were not a judicial but an administrative body, and were put, by this section of the Act, directly under the control of the Lord-Lieutenant, who was personally responsible for them and for their proper conduct in carrying out the Act. The Lord-Lieutenant must have given some instructions to the Estates Commissioners regulating these most important functions. If these instructions were in the form of letters, this House was entitled to know what they were. Then some light might be thrown on the question whether directions had been given them to grant a preference to some estates over others. That was a suspicion which ought not to exist. These were not private or confidential communications, but instructions contemplated by Act of Parliament. The right hon. Gentleman had not promised—perhaps was not in a position to promise—that any other such instructions were to be given; and, for that reason, he maintained that all these instructions, when given, should be laid on the Table of House. It was expressly provided in the same section of the Act that—

> "Reports of the proceedings of the Estates Commissioners shall be made by them in such terms and in such form as the Treasury may prescribe, and these Reports, and all rules under previous sub-sections, shall be laid before Parliament as soon as may be after their making."

It was most unaccountable that no Report had been made from time to time, when the Committee had been told that £20,000,000 worth of estates had been sold.

MR. ATKINSON: Agreements for sale have been lodged.

MR. HEMPHILL: Well, agreements lodged; but, of course, the money had to be provided to pay for them. He had seen a Report, which was a perfect labyrinth of incomprehensible figures, and he did not see why the Chief Secretary or his predecessor, or the Attorney-General for Ireland, who were responsible, should not have insisted on intelligible Reports being made. The public were still in the dark as to the proceedings of the Estates Commissioners. They were told that the Report would shortly be made and laid on the Table; but it was not at all satisfactory either to the Irish tenants, who were deeply interested in this question, or the Irish landlords, who were profoundly concerned, or the English taxpayers responsible for £112,000,000, that there should have been this laxity in carrying out this important Act. The consequence was that the preliminary arrangements even for carrying out of sales had been delayed for years. It was right that the strong light of the House of Commons should be brought to bear on the subject, for discussion on these Estimates was the only means afforded the public of seeing how far the intentions of the Legislature in regard to Irish Land Purchase were being carried out. He had been astonished to hear the right hon. Gentleman opposite say that the restoration of the evicted tenants was regarded as a comparatively unimportant matter when the Bill was passing through the House. Why, it was one of the strongest objects the Irish Party had in view in giving consent to the Bill; and, during the discussions in Committee, it was most prominently brought forward. Yet they had it now that that part of the Act had been a complete failure. Only a few out of some thousands of evicted tenants had been restored to their farms since the Act became law; and he trusted one of the effects of this debate would be to call the attention of those responsible to the laxity with which the Act had been carried out in regard to making regulations, making Reports, and facilitating the hearing of cases for land purchase so as to enable the objects of the Legislature to be accomplished.

MR. HAYDEN said he wished to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary on being able to make a speech on an Irish question after spending twenty-four hours in the country! Of course, the Irish Members were perfectly reasonable. They did not expect from the Chief Secretary, any more than from his predecessors, that he should be a complete master of the Irish situation or of Irish questions after a residence in Ireland of even a week. But by the time the week expired they expected that the present Chief Secretary, like so many of his predecessors, would be able to speak in an authoritative style and to lecture hon. Members who had lived in Ireland all their lives and knew the facts of the situation in that country.

One point which had been dealt with very elaborately by the hon. and learned Member for Longford, and to which the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary had devoted a considerable portion of his speech, was the publication of the regulations. He would not repeat the arguments already put forward; but he and his colleagues wanted it to be perfectly understood what they meant by regulations was not the legal interpretation of the exact word in an Act of Parliament, but the spirit of the promise made by the late Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General for Ireland when the Bill was going through this House. That promise, so far as they understood it, was that the instructions in the past, and which were intended to guide in the future, should, without any quibble as to words, be put into regulations which were to be published at very short periods. At any rate, that was the meaning attached, on those benches, to the promise of the Chief Secretary, and they regarded that promise as satisfactory. If there were to be any quibble with regard to the word "instructions" then the pledge of the Chief Secretary would not be satisfactory. The Chief Secretary stated that there were two methods of publication; one in the *Gazette*, and the other by laying the documents on the Table of the House. It was strictly in accordance with the promise given when the Bill was passing through Committee that the regulations should be laid before the House; the principal reason given being that Members should be in a position to criticise the action of the Government and the Estates Commissioners. Therefore, all such regulations should be circulated among Members of the House. It should, however, be recollected that for six months of the year the House of Commons was not in session, and that during that interval the regulations should be issued to hon. Members not only in their capacity as Members of the House, but also as citizens of the country. Therefore, they would commend to the Chief Secretary this double method of publication, and he trusted the suggestion would receive the attention of the right hon. Gentleman.

As regarded the matter mentioned by the hon. Member for Mid-Armagh, it was really too absurd for anything that the Estates Commissioners should be indicted on such grounds. The facts were laid before the House last week by the Attorney-General, who was not alleged to be over-friendly to the Estates Commissioners, and they went to show that the statements of the hon. Gentleman were totally inaccurate. They were founded on articles published in the *Irish Times* which had been repudiated. The plain object of the hon. Member for Mid-Armagh, as he stated in a supplementary Question, was to bring odium on one of the Estates Commissioners, namely, Mr. Finucane.

MR. LONSDALE said he did not mention any Commissioner's name in his Question. He only wanted to know to what extent the power of the United Irish League was being allowed to prevail.

MR. HAYDEN said he would return to the proceedings of last week. It transpired from a remark from the Irish Benches that the particular Commissioner was Mr. Wrench. Then the hon. Gentleman stated that he did not state that it was Mr. Wrench, but Mr. Finucane.

Mr. LONSDALE said he did not mention Mr. Finucane's name in his Question.

Mr. HAYDEN said the hon. Gentleman did not mention Mr. Finucane's name in his Question; but he did state when Mr. Wrench's name was mentioned that he was referring to Mr. Finucane.

Mr. LONSDALE: Hear, hear!

Mr. HAYDEN said that the hon. Gentleman repeated it now. They were endeavouring to elicit from the Attorney-General the name of the particular Commissioner who actually signed the agreement for the scheme for the distribution of this estate. They did not succeed in getting the name; and it was then they mentioned that they knew it was Mr. Wrench, the landed representative on the Estates Commissioners, that was concerned. It was, as the hon. Member for South Tyrone stated, another bad shot from the Orange gang. They fired on a previous occasion on Sir Antony MacDonnell and brought down the late Chief Secretary. They now fired at Mr. Finucane, and had very nearly brought down Mr. Wrench. What was the tremendous crime about this Maher Estate? It was almost a farm—210 acres; and one of the charges was that the United Irish League of Rochfortbridge exercised a certain amount of pressure as to the distribution of this land. What curse was there in that? The United Irish League consisted practically of the people of the district, and if they were to exclude from all administration in connection with the Act the United Irish League, they would exclude the majority of the representatives of the country, most of the clergymen, and all the representatives of local boards all over the country. What would then be left? There would only be left the Orangemen, which would be a highly satisfactory thing for the five or six unofficial Members from Ulster on the opposite side. That would be very satisfactory to hon. Gentlemen opposite, but would it help to settle the land question? On the contrary, the Irish land question and the Irish question would be more burning than they were even in the most revolutionary days of the Irish agitation, and would create such a state of things as might prevent the present Government from carrying out their intention of effecting economies which would reimburse the British Treasury for the bonus.

Now as to the distribution of the lands of the Maher Estate, the hon. Member for Mid-Armagh stated that one man got sixteen acres out of 210 "although he was a labourer." This, from an hon. Gentleman who posed before his constituents as a friend of the labourers.

Mr. LONSDALE said the hon. Gentleman should not misinterpret him. He said the labourer was a prominent official of the United Irish League.

Mr. HAYDEN said he had no intention of misinterpreting the hon. Gentleman; but he intended to quote correctly the words of the hon. Gentleman. The hon. Gentleman's remark was that although this particular man was a labourer he was allotted a plot of land. What stigma was to be put on a labourer who succeeded in graduating on to the small farming class? Would the hon. Gentleman repeat such a declaration to the labourers in his constituency? If the hon. Gentleman did, the result which he thought would happen at the next election would be absolutely assured. The fact in connection with the Maher Estate was that there was a large number of applicants. The United Irish League sent in about fifty names of applicants; but they did not expect they would all receive plots, because in that case the farms would only amount to about four acres each. The hon. Gentleman stated that the parish priest and the Labour League sent in lists. He himself lived within five miles of the estate; and he knew the facts better than the paid writers who were sent down from Dublin to give food for speeches in this House. He knew all the applicants; and they were all fit and proper persons to get small plots. What was really proved was that there was not land enough to go round, and also that there was a necessity on the part of the Estates Commissioners in that district and in other districts to acquire more untenanted land for the purposes of division. There was not a shadow of truth in the story of the supposed coachman, except that for a short while a small farmer of the district acted as coachman in charge of the single horse kept for the parish priest and subsequently for the Bishop. That man's name was in the list sent in by the parish priest, the list which the hon. Gentleman complained was not accepted.

The Question asked by the hon. Member for North Dublin, though he thought the Chief Secretary had misunderstood it, was whether in practice the Estates Commissioners treated estates in the exact order in which they were sent into them, or whether they had power, and, if so, whether it was their practice, to treat an estate according to what they considered its urgency. It was perfectly well known that the condition of some estates was far more urgent than that of others. That was particularly so with regard to estates in the West. This House had now been discussing for some years what was known as the Connaught problem and its solution, and while that problem existed, to a peculiar degree, in the West of Ireland, it was also to be found in a greater or less degree in almost every county in the country. It was the condition of estates of this class which caused the land war in Ireland, and it was the condition of these estates in the West and other parts that made legislation by this House an imperative necessity. When the Land Purchase Bill was being framed, and it was doubtful whether a bonus would be granted in connection with it, the members of the Irish Government, who were anxious to obtain the bonus, invited the then Chancellor of the Exchequer to visit Ireland. They did not take the right hon. Gentleman through the rich lands of Meath, Westmeath, and Kildare, but through the county Roscommon, and from there on a motor tour through the poverty-stricken districts of the West. That was to show the urgent character of the problem sought to be solved. It was because they were able to bring the urgent and pressing character of that problem before the Chancellor of the Exchequer that they were able to give the bonus of £12,000,000 to the landlords, and that the Government were able, with the approval of both sides of the House, to carry the financial provisions of the Bill. They now found from the Return presented to the House that morning, that of the money spent in Ireland upon land purchase £250,000 only was spent in the province of Connaught and £2,000,000 in Leinster, where the land question was of quite a different character to that of the West of Ireland. A quarter of a million only was spent in a district where every day an agitation might arise unless the land question was settled, and he thought, therefore, they had good reason to express disappointment. It was not a proper policy to pursue, he thought, to take estates in the exact order in which they came before the Commissioners, because one landlord of Leinster, by putting his estate in, might cripple the resources of the Commissioners and make it impossible for them, for perhaps a full year, to touch the problem of congestion and assist in settling the country. If the right hon. Gentleman would look up the debates which took place when the Land Purchase Bill was before the House he would find that the chief incentive for passing the Act was that it would once and for all settle the Irish land question. That could not be done so long as the poverty-stricken districts of the West, which always provided so rich a field for the agitator against whom the Government inveighed so much, were not dealt with till last. If the Chief Secretary studied the debates he would find the two things emphasised by his predecessor and the Prime Minister were that the Bill would deal directly and satisfactorily with the problems of the congested districts and the evicted tenants. It was not the idea to benefit rich and well-to-do farmers, but to settle the land question, and that could not be settled unless they grappled at once, and in a satisfactory manner, with the thing which, above all others, had made this question an urgent and a burning one, namely, the condition of the congestion in the West of Ireland and the consequent depopulation.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said he hoped the Chief Secretary would not go away under the impression that the majority of Irishmen thought that the Land Purchase Act was not a success. On the contrary, it had been almost too successful. If anything went to hinder its success it was that the amount of money granted at the present time for the purpose of carrying it out had been exhausted. He trusted that when the Chief Secretary had had time to thoroughly master the details of the land question in Ireland, he would see that the thing most necessary to be done was at all costs to provide sufficient money to enable the Act to be kept steadily flowing along. Up to the present time they had only £11,000,000 to meet the sales of estates, amounting to between £20,000,000 and £30,000,000, in regard to which agreements had been made and lodged. Now the House would understand that if once the landlords and the tenants got it into their heads that after coming to an agreement a space of time amounting to perhaps two or three years must elapse before the sale and purchase could be completed, the inevitable result would be that the landlords would become more unwillingly to sell and the tenants to buy. Therefore he hoped that the objection raised by the Treasury that some extraordinary effect would be caused on the money market if more than £5,000,000 a year were granted for this purpose would be speedily dispelled. He was glad the Chief Secretary had stated what he considered was the proper policy to be pursued with regard to the Land Act. The first object of the Act was to transfer as much land as possible from landlords to tenants, and anything which hindered that operation would be fatal to the settlement of the land question. Hon. Members opposite had argued that because the farmers in Ulster were prosperous and contented, the cases of farmers in Connaught, whose lot was considered to be less happy, ought to be taken first. Such a course would be grossly unfair and would be inimical to the working of the Act. During the passage of the Bill it was freely stated that it would never work in Ulster, because the landlords were receiving their rents so regularly that they would have no inducement to sell. That, he was glad to say, had not proved to be the case. Landlords in Ulster, recognising that the land question must be settled, had been amongst the first to show their willingness to sell, and if more land had been sold in Ulster than in Connaught it redounded to the credit of the Ulster landlords and tenants.

A great deal had been said about the evicted tenants. Hon. Members opposite would almost have the Committee believe that upon the reinstatement of the evicted tenants depended the settlement of the whole land question in Ireland. The position taken up by the Ulster Members while the Land Act was under discussion was clear. They had never admitted that the evicted tenants ought to have any special advantage over other people, but they had said that if means could be devised for reinstating the evicted tenants without injuring the persons in occupation of their former holdings they would be very glad if it could be brought about. They did not raise any objection to the clauses or conditions relating to the evicted tenants in the Act, and they would be very glad to see them back on their farms if it could be arranged. But to lay it down that the evicted tenants should be attended to and their cases dealt with in front of all others would be most unfair to people in other parts of the country.

With reference to the Maher Estate, what his hon. friend the Member for Mid-Armagh objected to was the fact that the list prepared by the two people—the seller of the estate and the parish priest—who were probably better able than anybody else to judge who should benefit by the reparcelling of the estate, had been set aside at the instance of the United Irish League. The objection was that the Estates Commissioners seemed to have allowed themselves to be influenced against their better judgment by the United Irish League. Another point was that he did not think it was ever intended by the Act that in the case of the uneconomic holdings that appeared to have existed around that estate the owners of those small holdings should be put on one side in favour of the variety of persons whom his hon. friend had enumerated. From the list read out by his hon. friend it was quite clear that the land had been given to a number of villagers who had previously not been farmers at all instead of to those who were already farmers, but whose farms were too small. The Act did not intend that. It did not intend to turn dwellers in towns into farmers, but it intended, where an uneconomic holding existed, to enlarge it to such an extent that it would be economic. It was the question of the United Irish League which prompted his hon. friend to bring up that case, and that interference of the United Irish League he believed to be the interference of an iniquitous and most immoral association.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): It has as good a character as you have.

*Mr. CHARLES CRAIG, continuing, said he was not going to blow his own trumpet, but the character of the United Irish League was patent to all as that of an iniquitous and immoral body. In county Galway the League was at present acting an iniquitous and immoral part.

A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Why not suppress it?

*Mr. CHARLES CRAIG said he certainly would suppress it if he had the power. Some days ago he asked two Questions on the subject, which were treated with a want of seriousness which did not speak well for the intentions of the Irish Government. The League had been bringing pressure to bear on a vast number of individuals in Galway and the surrounding districts to get them to surrender grass lands for the purpose of enlarging what they considered to be uneconomic holdings. It would no doubt be most desirable that the uneconomic holdings should be made economic, but that the possessors of those grass lands should be forced to give them up for that purpose was contrary to all the laws which ought to rule in a civilised country. He had recently asked the Attorney-General whether for the purpose of coercing the owners of those grazing farms into giving them up, large quantities, amounting in one case to 650 yards, of walls surrounding those holdings were wantonly pulled down. Any person, he thought, would understand the gravity of that offence. It was quite a new method of coercion, but if it was not dealt with at once and strongly by the Executive Government, it would no doubt before long be common. He brought before the House two cases in which that had been done—one in which 650 yards of wall were pulled down, thus rendering a large farm utterly useless for the only purpose for which it could be used, namely, for grazing—and in the other case 500 yards had been pulled down. That action must have been prompted and to a large extent brought about by the United Irish League, and if that was so, he felt that every Member of the House who was not a Nationalist Member—and probably some of the Nationalists if they would only say so—would say that such action was most immoral and should be put down with a strong hand. He hoped the new Chief Secretary would make it clear that such lawlessness as existed at present in Galway would not be allowed to continue.

*Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he desired to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman upon the new post to which he had just succeeded, and he trusted that he would take such a course in reference to Irish affairs as would allow him to give him what assistance he could. He wished to urge upon the right hon. Gentleman the necessity of providing better facilities for the work of the Estates Commissioners by easing the money difficulty. The question had been gone into, and they had had a statement of the facts. From the moment he heard of the right hon. Gentleman's appointment he had entertained some hopes that the new Chief Secretary was the statesman marked out to deal with the money part of that problem. Under the purchase scheme of the Metropolitan Water Board over £40,000,000 had been applied for, and at first it was feared that the raising of this immense sum would cause inconvenience in the money market. This, however, had not turned out to be the case, and this great transaction went through as easily as any great financial transaction ever went through in the history of this country, and upon that he thought the right hon. Gentleman opposite was to be congratulated. He thought some steps of a similar kind might be taken in connection with the work of the Estates Commissioners. The right hon. Gentleman in his scheme put such an attractive bait before the London water companies that they were induced to take a large part of their purchase money in stock, and he did three things to bring about this desirable result. In the first place he found out exactly what the stock was worth. He then ascertained what would be the cost of launching it on the money market, and he offered a portion of it to the vendors if they would take the water stock and not require the raising of the money. Thus the vendors were saved the expense and trouble of reinvesting their capital. He wished to know whether the right hon. Gentleman had made any inquiries as to whether any scheme of that kind could be adopted to help forward the sale of estates under the Land Act? The effect in the case of the water stock in London was that the price went up and the value of the stock was increased. Why could a similar scheme not be devised under which Irish landlords would be inclined to accept land stock instead of cash? It would, he said, be a great discredit if the Purchase Act, the greatest movement of English statesmanship since the Union, was seriously clogged for want of every assistance that sound finance could give.

Mr. WOOD (Down, E.) said it was a remarkable thing that these charges should have been made against the Estate Commissioners, having regard to the fact that the inspector sent out was a supporter of hon. Members opposite. As for the Galway Estate, that was placed under an absolute order for sale in 1887 and up to the present time no sale had taken place. He understood that Lord Ashbourne was desirous of purchasing the estate. That accounted for some of the agitation in Galway, and if the same thing took place in county Down he should not be surprised at the same exhibition of feeling. He wanted some information as to the number of sales which had taken place under Section 26 of the Act of 1903. That was the section under which estates vested in the Lord Chancellor were dealt with. He wished to know how many of those estates had been disposed of and the terms upon which those sales had taken place. He was told that the highest prices had been demanded by the Lord Chancellor and that there had been no sale under the section he had referred to. As to Section 5 of the Act, which stipulated that certain farms might be sold where the Estates Commissioners considered that the prices for the estates which were agreed to be sold were fair and reasonable having regard to the circumstances, he wanted to know if any construction had been placed on that section by the Land Judge or the Estates Commissioners. Was it only the landlord's interest that was to be taken into consideration in relation to the question of security, or was it the combined security of the landlord and the tenant? He desired to get answers on these questions from the right hon. Gentleman, because it was utterly impossible to deal in detail with the work of the Commissioners in the absence of the Report, which should have been placed before the House long ago. He listened with some satisfaction to the reply of the Chief Secretary. He thought the Treasury ought to have given instructions in Regard to the Report long before February 27th. The Treasury had been guilty of laches and neglect. What had the Secretary of the Treasury been doing? He had been careless in allowing this matter to remain over until the end of February.

Mr. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore) said that in the course of this discussion the fact had been strongly borne in upon his mind that, after all, the letter of the law was comparatively a small thing when contrasted with the spirit in which the law was administered. They might have, on the one hand, a law that had many shortcomings, that might fall far short of their ideal, and yet, if it was administered in a strong, broad, and sympathetic spirit, they might do much. On the other hand. they might have a law theoretically perfect on paper, a law which might have secured the enthusiastic assent of every Member of the House, and yet, if they entrusted the administration to a set of hide-bound officials on the one side, or a set of covert enemies on the other, all their labour and trouble might go for nothing; their best intentions would be frustrated and come to naught. When speaking of good intentions from these benches, might he address a perhaps not unfriendly warning to the right hon. Gentleman who had succeeded to the thorny and difficult position of Chief Secretary for Ireland? They might remind him that the way to Dublin Castle, like the way to a certain other place, was only too often paved with good intentions; and that any man who wanted to rule Ireland, and who submitted to the restrictions of Dublin Castle red tape, was a man foredoomed to failure, no matter how good and excellent his motives might be.

He felt, in common with the rest of his colleagues, that he was suffering under a serious grievance. It was absolutely impossible to make much of a contribution to a discussion for which no official information was forthcoming. He was sorry he could not agree with the Chief Secretary that this was a mere misapprehension on the part of the Irish representatives. He could assure the right hon. Gentleman that there was no misapprehension as to the effect of the non-production of the official Report. It was not a question of misapprehension, it was a question of design. It was part and parcel of a well-established Dublin Castle dodge for deliberately delaying vital and most important facts and figures until too late for use in debating Irish affairs. In that way the Government not only mystified and befogged the House, but obstructed Members from Ireland in the performance of their duties. A promise was made from the front Ministerial Bench that the Report would be produced in reasonable time, and he regretted that efforts should be made to belittle the seriousness of that promise by all sorts of quibbling and hair-splitting. It was a promise that ought to have held good among gentlemen no matter what their political differences might be—a promise the breach of which was not only a political default, but something like an infraction of the personal courtesy between the two sides of the House.

The defects of the Land Purchase Act were due, primarily, to the assumption of the overwhelming majority of the Members of this House that the one body of men in the whole of the British Empire whose warnings could be disregarded in the management of Irish affairs were the men who were locally and constitutionally elected as Members of Parliament to represent the opinions of the people of Ireland. If Parliament, in dealing with the most true-blue county in England, say Kent, were to disregard the opinions of the representatives of the county, the county councils, and the district councils, in a very short time the county would be Radical to the backbone, instead of Tory, as it was to-day. They had to complain of the spirit which had permeated the working of the Act. It had been made a reproach in English quarters against the Irish Party that they had had some differences amongst themselves as to the methods of working the Act. In this it seemed to him that Englishmen had been unfair and inconsistent, because if Irishmen had a few differences, not very serious or deep-rooted, they were told that they were a pack of quarrelsome Celts, but if they had not the slightest difference of opinion such as might arise amongst a body of intelligent men, then they were told that they were a pack of Irish slaves, controlled by the tyrant hands of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. Whatever differences there had been about this Act, what were they compared with the spirit shown on the benches opposite, and even on the judicial benches? One of the greatest troubles they had had to deal with in connection with the working of the Land Act was that, on the very eve of the Second Reading, the Solicitor-General for England went down to the country and at a public meeting sneered at the Land Purchase Bill, and said that he was only going to vote for the Second Reading as a matter of form, and that the Irish land legislation for the past twenty years was a scandal and a disgrace to civilisation. That was a very sinister remark to make. It gave to the Judges in the Land Courts, and to every man having the administration of the Act in his hands, the straight tip that if they took a line against the tenants, and did all they could for the landlords, they would be doing a thing heartily approved of by a very strong and powerful section of the present Government.

He greatly regretted that the hon. Member for Mid-Armagh and the select little band of his friends should try to import bad blood into the discussion of Irish affairs. That hon. Member had said much about land sales in Westmeath of which he did not approve, and though the hon. Member in his own constituency, in view of the next general election, posed as the champion of the agricultural labourer, he tried to bar out the agricultural labourers in Westmeath from getting any scrap of benefit out of the Land Purchase Act. The hon. Member had also complained of the intervention of the United Irish League in land sales. He could only say that his grievance against a large proportion of the tenants was that they had purchased under the Act without sufficiently consulting the League, with the result that tens of thousands of pounds had been put into the pockets of the landlords more than they should have got. A number of remarks had been made by Land Judges and Land Commissioners to the effect that the high prices paid for farms in many parts of Ireland were a proof that higher rents could have been paid. He defied anyone in or out of the House to produce a quotation from any English political economist, no matter what his politics might be, which went to show that the sale price, in Ireland, of land ever had been, or could be, a fair test of the rent which the owner might reasonably ask a tenant to pay. The competition for land, and the excessive price paid for land had been notorious, and he trusted that that would be taken into account in fixing prices under the Land Purchase Act.

*Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.) said he wished to invite the Chief Secretary's attention to some figures taken from the Return placed in Members' hands only that day. He would take his own native county—Armagh—but the conclusions deduced therefrom would probably be found applicable to the other counties in Ireland. Firstly, the purchase price was too extravagant. In the case of judicial rents fixed before 1896 (first-term rents) the number of years' purchase was almost twenty-nine. In the case of second-term rents the number of years' purchase varied from nearly twenty-six inside the zones to over twenty-seven and a half outside the zones. In the case of non-judicial rents the price was over twenty-five years purchase. This was far too high. Another point was that in county Armagh the sales were all direct between landlord and tenant, without the intervention of the Estates Commissioners. This was a dangerous mode of procedure, and was accountable for the unduly inflated prices which tenants in county Armagh had been cajoled or coerced into paying. As to the question of evicted tenants—there was a reference in the King's Speech which promised the Land Act—and a final settlement of the land question would not be possible until the last of the evicted tenants had been reinstated. Rent reductions were lamentably small and inadequate, considering the increased pressure of foreign competition and increased price of labour. Good swingeing reductions were the only way to beat down to their knees landlords like the Earl of Dartrey who demanded twenty-six years' purchase. He also desired to direct the Chief Secretary's attention to the definition of a congested estate in Section 6, Subsection 5, of the Act of 1903—

> "The expression 'congested estate' means an estate not less than half the area of which consists of holdings not exceeding five pounds in rateable value, or of mountain or bog land."

This definition would cover nearly the whole of South Armagh, where most of the land was mountain or bog land.

One word in conclusion. In the days of old Rome a new Praetor, on entering on his term of office, was wont to promulgate by edict the various laws by which he proposed to govern. The Chief Secretary was assuming a new and important post. During his tenure of the Irish Secretaryship he might be content merely to mark time. But if he desired to finish the work which his predecessor had begun, then he would show unto him a yet more excellent way. Let him open a new leaf in his album and let him take up his pen and write quickly thereon these words, "Compulsory Sale and Purchase of Land (Ireland) Act." Let him not deceive himself. The one and only ultimate solution of the Irish Land Question was the introduction into future legislation of the element of compulsion.

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 150; Noes, 224. (Division List No. 65 .)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crean, Eugene
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt E C (S Andrew's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Col John P. (Galway, N.)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C. R. (Northants)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halfax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wood, James
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Haviland Burke.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Fortser, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Bagot, Capt, Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn. Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull. William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt.Hn.J.F.(Glasgow
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward H
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Colomb, Rt.Hon.Sir JohnC.R.
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim,S
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies,Sir Horatio D (Chatham
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dorington, Rt Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt.Hon.Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hon.SirJ.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ss Bghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S.(Warwick, S W.
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E.(Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon,Maj Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D.(Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier,Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph(Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson, JohnGrant(Yorks.N.R
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol.S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis, William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Massey, Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell,RtHn Sir H E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon.J.Scott(Hants.)
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, SirHarryS.(Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,RtHnJ Parker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley,Rt Hon. Lord(Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir MarkJ. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn. J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt.Hn.Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E(Notts.)
Wharton, Rt Hon John Lloyd
Whiteley, H (Ashton und. Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Original Question again proposed.

And, it being half past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again this evening.

EVENING SITTING.

WOOLWICH BOROUGH COUNCIL BILL [By Order.]

Read a second time, and committed.

SUPPLY [2nd Allotted Day].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1905-6 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £21,500,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, viz. :—

CIVIL SERVICES.

Class III.

Ireland :—

	£
Land Commission	70,000

Class II.

United Kingdom and England :—

	£
Colonial Office	25,000
Local Government Board	86,000

Class I.

	£
Royal Palaces	26,000
Osborne	7,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens	43,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings	25,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain	33,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain	15,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings	54,000
Revenue Buildings	200,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain	180,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom	90,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade	8,000
Peterhead Harbour	10,000
Rates on Government Property	260,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland	110,000
Railways, Ireland	35,000

Class II.

United Kingdom and England :—

	£
House of Lords Offices	7,000
House of Commons Offices	15,000
Treasury and Subordinate Departments	40,000
Home Office	66,000
Foreign Office	25,000
Privy Council Office, etc.	3,000
Board of Trade	85,000
Mercantile Marine Services	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade	3
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries	55,000
Charity Commission	15,000
Civil Service Commission	17,000
Exchequer and Audit Department	25,000
Friendly Societies Registry	3,000
Lunacy Commission	5,000
Mint (including Coinage)	5
National Debt Office	6,000
Public Record Office	10,000
Public Works Loan Commission	5
Registrar-General's Office	17,000
Stationery and Printing	330,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of	30,000
Secret Service	40,000

Scotland :—

	£
Secretary for Scotland, Office of	25,000
Fishery Board	5,000
Lunacy Commission	3,000
Registrar-General's Office	2,000
Local Government Board	5,000

Ireland :—

	£
Lord-Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary for Ireland	12,000
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction	80,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office	1,000

	£
Local Government Board	27,000
Public Record Office	2,000
Public Works Office	17,000
Registrar-General's Office	5,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey	6,000

Class III.

United Kingdom and England :—

Law Charges	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	28,000
Supreme Court of Judicature	140,000
Land Registry	18,000
County Courts	2,000
Police, England and Wales	13,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies	350,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain	130,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum	12,000

Scotland :—

Law Charges and Courts of Law	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh	15,000
Crofters' Commission, Scotland	2,000
Prisons, Scotland	37,000

Ireland :—

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions	32,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments	43,000
County Court Officers, etc.	45,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police	60,000
Royal Irish Constabulary	600,000
Prisons, Ireland	54,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	55,000
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum	3,500

Class IV.

United Kingdom and England :—

	£
Board of Education	7,000,000
British Museum	70,000
National Gallery	10,000
National Portrait Gallery	3,000
Wallace Collection	3,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom	24,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	60,000

Scotland :—

Public Education	770,000
National Gallery	5,000

Ireland :—

Public Education	760,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners	400
National Gallery	2,500
Queen's Colleges	2,500

Class V.

Diplomatic and Consular Services	250,000
Colonial Services	595,000
Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	35,000
Cyprus (Grant in Aid)	15,000

Class VI.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	300,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.,	1,500
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiencies	—

Class VII.

Temporary Commissions	20,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	14,587
Repayments to the Local Loans Fund	—
Ireland Development Grant	100,000
Visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India	—
Total for Civil Services	£14,070,000

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

	£
Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	250,000
Post Office Telegraphs	2,200,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£7,430,000
Grand Total	£21,500,000

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) said he desired to call attention to the want of education among the children of the Tamil coolies who worked on the tea estates in Ceylon. The Tamil coolies were those who came across the sea from Madras and other parts of Southern India and who settled down to work on the plantations of Ceylon, and for their children so slight a provision was made in the way of education that it could be left altogether without recognition. The whole state of education among the population was neither flattering to our rule nor very encouraging. According to the census of 1901, the population of Ceylon was 3,500,000, and of the number only 750,000 were able to read or write, the rest were without any education. So far as the children were concerned, of the Ceylonese three-fifths had education and two-fifths had none; the children of the Tamil coolies were even more neglected. They numbered roughly some 90,000 or 100,000, and of those only one in fifty received any education at all. Such a state of things did not redound to the credit of the tea-planter, or, this being a Crown Colony, to our institutions. Two years previously the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, when Colonial Secretary, had been good enough to refer this question of the education of the children to a Committee then sitting upon the incidence of taxation and education cess, and he believed a Report was made by every member of that Committee with regard to the education of the coolie children of Ceylon. That Report had never been given to the House. They now found quite recently that a new Committee had been established by Sir Henry Blake, the new Governor of Ceylon, for the purpose of examining this question. He desired to know the reason for appointing that Committee, because it was generally acknowledged by those who understood these matters that the appointment of a Committee was only another means for delay. He believed, however, from the reply that the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary had made to a Question upon this subject, that this Committee was for a benevolent object, and was to take into consideration the recommendations of the Committee which sat upon the incidence of taxation and education cess and to establish a system of education in Ceylon for these children. If that was so, he should be highly delighted and could only congratulate the right hon. Gentleman upon commencing his official duties by such an act of real civilisation to this colony.

There were some Tea Estates Companies who felt they owed a duty to the children on their estates, and they had established schools which had been successful in obtaining grants from the Government, but there were only forty-three of those schools among 1,857 estates. The experience of the education obtained in those schools was of the greatest value to the Committee, a great many owners of estates expressing the opinion that the children on their estates, owing to the education they received, were a great deal more intelligent than before, that they were able to check the accounts of their families and thus keep a check upon the money-lenders, who were a great evil so far as the coolies were concerned in Ceylon. That established the position that education was not only in the interests of the children, but of the planters also, because it gave them intelligent workmen. Mr. J. Harwood, the Director of Public Instruction in Ceylon, had not a great opinion of the estates schools, and said—

> "It was not unfair to say that there was hardly any proper educational provision for the children of the Tamil estate coolies."

and further

> "That no planter would deny that many children go out as pluckers at an age when they would be more appropriately going to school."

In conclusion, Mr. Harwood said that these children—

> "should have some instruction of a simple and elementary nature."

Referring to the question of age, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take that question into consideration. These children of tender years were taken out into the fields and exposed for ten or twelve hours in all weathers, for there was not always sunshine in Ceylon, and he thought there should be some limitation to the time at which they should be at work. Mr. Harwood's opinion was that—

> "The real solution of the question seems to be in the establishment of a special class of school for the estate coolies with a syllabus framed to meet the real wants of these children. The extension of schools of a similar type through the more backward parts of the rural districts of Ceylon would be a wise measure."

Mr. Kingsford, Chairman of the Planters Association of Ceylon, on the other hand, rather threw cold water upon that scheme and said—

> "I would advocate an extension on a more liberal scale of the present Government grants."

Unfortunately a rumour had reached him that the Director of Public Instruction there proposed to reduce the grants made by the Government. He hoped that that was not the case. Nobody proposed to give these children an elaborate education comprising algebra, trigonometry, and so forth; all they wanted to teach them was a little writing, reading, and arithmetic in their own vernacular. Two or three hours a day would be quite sufficient, and nobody suggested that these children should spend the whole day in school. Another idea which had struck a great many was that for the purposes of the schools the estates should be grouped together so that a school might be founded for the children of, say, four or five estates. He did not think the cost of such schools as he suggested would be alarming, seeing that a schoolmaster could be obtained for twenty rupees a month, and though the planters themselves were not very enthusiastic on the subject of education, he thought, if they only fell into line, they would in the end be glad to see, as some already did, the benefits of education extended to those whom they employed. The *Times of Ceylon* stated—

> "We have little doubt that primary education for the Tamil children on the estates would create a more intelligent class, more free from crime than their more ignorant fathers."

The hon. Sir James Ferguson, a member of the Government Council, Ceylon, said

> "The primary duty lies with the estate proprietors, with the directors and chairmen of Tea Companies. If this duty be neglected for long I can only say I shall feel bound to advocate compulsion."

He himself held a certain number of tea shares, and was also connected with some

Mr. Schwann.

estates in Ceylon, and was therefore able, as well as willing, to contribute his share towards promoting the welfare of the children. The right hon. Gentleman had already shown his interest in this question, and he hoped they would very shortly see a simple, cheap, and effective system of education introduced in Ceylon.

*MR. KEARLEY (Devonport) said he had already about a fortnight since directed the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the treatment of British ships trading with the Marshall Islands, but the replies not being entirely satisfactory he was entitled to mention the subject again. The Commonwealth Government had made a strong protest to the Home Government against the outrageous treatment accorded to British ships trading between the Colonies and those islands which belonged to Germany. What were the facts? A Sydney firm intended to establish a line of steamers between Sydney and the Marshall Islands, but, before doing so, they approached the German authorities, who assured them that they would come in under the most-favoured-nation terms. On the arrival at the Marshall Islands of the first ship they were charged a licence fee at the rate of £2,700 per annum for the privilege of trading. Two voyages were made, both of which were necessarily unsuccessful, but at the urgent request of the native chiefs it was decided to make a third trip in the hope that the authorities would make some concession. On arrival, however, the captain of the ship was told the fees were doubled, and a trading fee at the rate of £5,400 per annum was levied. When the ship returned to Sydney and the facts became known considerable excitement arose in the harbour, culminating in the strong protest that was sent by the Commonwealth Government to the Home Government. A great deal was said now-a-days about protecting our trade from outrageous treatment; here was a case in which the Government could apply their policy of retaliation without any delay longer than that of obtaining the assent of Parliament, which would be freely given. Let them consider the difference in treatment accorded to German and other nationalities when trading with the group of islands under British control; ships of any nation could go and trade on payment of a fee of £100 a year! What was the nature of the protest of the Commonwealth Government, and were the Imperial Government discussing this question with Germany? because it was not a question which would brook much delay. He would like to know also whether the right hon. Gentleman would publish Papers. He hoped the Government would not tamely submit to this outrageous interference with our trade, and that if satisfaction was not accorded by Germany they would devise some means of retaliation.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) asked for information as to the issue of the first instalment of the £30,000,000 Transvaal loan. The answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as to the willingness of the guarantors to fulfil their obligations was entirely borne out by the correspondence. The Government had made the proposition for this £30,000,000 loan with an utter disregard to the one consideration they ought to bear in mind in all transactions of this kind. The arrangement the late Colonial Secretary made with the guarantors for the loan excluded all possibility of a sinking fund. A sinking fund was to be provided for the £35,000,000 loan which the late Colonial Secretary said was part of the agreement whereby this country was to guarantee the £30,000,000, and that fact ought to be kept in the forefront. The present Colonial Secretary, wiser than his predecessor, said a sinking fund must be provided for the £30,000,000 loan also, and the guarantors then asked for further particulars. So far as he could discover, all negotiations had since then been suspended with the guarantors, and he asked, Why this delay? Why had the right hon. Gentleman allowed fifteen months to elapse without taking action in the matter. In his letter of December 4th, 1903, to Messrs. Wernher Beit & Company, the Colonial Secretary stated—

> "The necessary legal provisions for raising the loan had been embodied in a draft Ordinance which was forwarded some time ago to the Governor of the Transvaal, and which will be submitted in due course to the Legislative Council of the Colony, but an important point in connection with the Ordinance remains unsettled, namely, the question of a sinking fund."

Had anything been done since December, 1903, to get the assent of the Legislative Council of the Transvaal to the issue of this loan? The matter was in a most extraordinary position, and the Committee ought to have some definite and detailed statement from the Colonial Secretary as to how the whole matter stood. The first instalment was to have been paid some fifteen months ago, but there was no immediate prospect of the promise being fulfilled. Quite recently Lord Milner had stated that the finances of the Transvaal were in a very rosy condition, but it was only a few weeks back that the Colonial Secretary said that they were not sufficient to meet the sinking fund and interest for this first instalment of the loan. He thought, however, that, having regard to the contribution from the mines under the new system, the right hon. Gentleman would find, if he looked into the matter for the coming year, that the finances of the Transvaal would be sufficient to meet the sinking fund and interest. Moreover, the money market was in a condition favourable to the issue of the loan. All financial authorities would agree that at any time within the last two months a successful issue might have been secured; but in any case, so far as the first issue was concerned, the guarantors were liable for its success. How was it that the right hon. Gentleman had not taken advantage of the condition of the money market? Even the municipality of Johannesburg proposed to issue a loan of £2,500,000. If the reason for the non-issue of the loan was not the condition of the Transvaal finances or of the money market, was it connected with the Legislative Council? The right hon. Gentleman ought to make a clean breast of the matter, and he hoped he would take advantage of the present debate to give the Committee a clear and definite statement. He begged to move a reduction in the Vote of £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item, Class 2, Vote 6 (Colonial Office), be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. McCrae.*)

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said the question raised by the hon. Member for Devonport was a serious one, and, with him, he appealed to his right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary to consider it. He would point out, however, that the action of Germany in regard to the Marshall Islands was not a single application of a singular principle, but the application of a general principle to the whole of His Majesty's Colonies by that Power. At the present time the North-German Lloyd Company, by its contract with the German Government, was prevented from taking from Australia to Germany a single pound's worth of wool, food stuffs or any raw material which Australia might produce. It seemed to him the Committee should consider this question in relation not only to Germany, but also to the United States. What was the policy of the United States with regard to our Colonies? He was aware that hon. Members opposite were opposed to him on the question of preference, but there was such a thing as not only preference in relation to the trade of foreign countries with our Colonies, but also practical prohibition. In 1885, England was commercially supreme in the Sandwich Islands. By virtue of a strenuous commercial policy the United States gained control of the commercial position there, turned that position into a political position, and eventually, as in Samoa, effected a territorial acquirement. The result was that now the shipping trade from Australia was not allowed to carry a pound of goods from the Sandwich Islands to San Francisco. How could Great Britain view a circumstance of that kind without considering her own position? In the Sandwich Islands, Samoa, and Mexico, the United States had, to use an American expression, "chiselled" us out of our position.

The hon. Member for Devonport had very properly protested against the action of Germany, and had asked what position the Government were going to take up with regard to what was practically a prohibitory proclamation against our trade. The matter was worthy of attention, and the Committee ought to consider whether the question of retaliation, whether applied to the dumping of goods in this country by foreign countries or to the passage of ships upon the sea, was not really a serious and critical question for this country. If a policy of retaliation might be applied in the case of Germany in regard to the Marshall Islands, should the Committee not consider whether it would be possible, or proper, to incorporate into our national policy a reconstruction of our navigation laws? We boasted of our shipping trade, and yet our position was only the same as fifty years ago, in spite of the vast increase of our population and the acquisition of large territories which ought to give us new markets. In Cuba there had been a policy of preference. ["Question."] The policy of retaliation involved the policy of preference, if it involved anything at all. ["No."] If a nation pursued a policy favourable to its own territories and oppressive to those of other Powers, that was a policy of preference. If the hon. Gentleman asked the Government to retaliate in this case, he was asking them to retaliate in the interests of some of the British dominions, and if that did not involve the principle of preference what, in the name of common-sense, did it involve? At any rate, it involved the principle of fair play for our shipping trade and of justice to our Colonies. This policy of preference or of justice to our dominions had been well exemplified in the relations between Canada and Germany. When Canada put a surtax upon sugar, Germany was exporting to Canada 188,000,000 lbs. of sugar. Immediately Canada put on the surtax the importation of German sugar ceased, but the importation from the West Indies and British Guiana went up to such an extent as to make good the cessation of the German supply. In the course of recent debates with regard to the Sugar Convention and the increased production in the West Indies, hon. Members had spoken of the importation into England as though that were all. But the Empire was larger than England, and if, by the Sugar Convention embodying the principle of preference to the West Indies, the Government had benefited the trade of Canada and developed the production of India, and by so completing the circle had drawn Canada closer to this country, they had been pursuing not only an Imperial idea of unity but an economic idea of security.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said that with regard to the Transvaal loan, there had been an entire failure to carry out the obligations contracted when the late Colonial Secretary went to South Africa. Three obligations were then entered into. The first was that the gold and property tax should not exceed a certain percentage. That was in favour of those interested in gold mines, and had been rigidly observed. The second was that this country should guarantee a loan of £35,000,000. That was for the benefit of the colony, and the money had been issued. The third was that a sum of £30,000,000, should be raised at 4 per cent., without guarantee by this country, towards the cost of the war. That was in favour of this country, but the obligation had been absolutely unfulfilled. He did not blame the Colonial Secretary for not carrying the arrangement into effect, his view being that we had no right until a representative Government adopted the proposal to impose upon the Transvaal such an immense burden of taxation as would be involved in another £30,000,000 of debt. The £35,000,000 already issued, and the additional £30,000,000 would amount to about £160 of debt per head of the white population of the Transvaal, an amount unprecedented in the history of any nation. The indebtedness in this country worked out to about £18 per head. He had endeavoured, with considerable trouble, to ascertain what the financial position of the Transvaal really was, but it was the most difficult thing in the world to investigate. The Blue-books gave the impression that the truth was being purposely concealed, so muddled and confused were the statements. He thought, however, that any impartial observer of the Transvaal accounts for last year would come to the conclusion that the financial prospect was anything but rosy. Did the Government really believe it possible to impose this fresh burden of £30,000,000 on the Transvaal. If so, he would be glad to hear it, as there were many persons in South Africa who profited very largely by the war, and who ought to pay something towards relieving the burden imposed upon this country. He had no feeling of tenderness for the capitalists of South Africa, who, he believed, were largely responsible for that most disastrous war, but business ought to be business, and it was idle to put an additional £30,000,000 of debt upon the Transvaal unless the Government were satisfied that the country could bear the burden. If the Colonial Secretary had doubts on the subject he would receive support from both sides if he said so at once and took the consequences, which, after all, would not be the result of his own acts. The truth was that this arrangement was an illusory and impossible bargain from beginning to end. He hoped the Colonial Secretary would tell the Committee what he really thought about the subject, and whether he proposed to leave the matter open until representative Government was established in the Transvaal, and that representative Government had taken upon itself the responsibility of this burden.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said the hon. and learned Gentleman was one of the few Members who were justified in taking the line he had just followed, because in the discussions on the South African Loan Bill he took the fundamental objection that the condition of the Transvaal was such that a debt of £65,000,000 could not equitably be imposed upon the colony, and he had consistently opposed the policy of the Government from beginning to end. But that did not apply to all Members, and certainly not to the Government. There was a case, at any rate, for full inquiry and explanation. What was the condition of affairs with regard to this £30,000,000 loan? Without going through the matter from the beginning what was the condition now? The last statement they had upon this subject was one made two or three days ago by Lord Milner in Johannesburg, who said that he was leaving South Africa without a vestige of anxiety regarding the ability of the Transvaal to pay its way, and there was money enough there to meet all the normal requirements of good government. Lord Milner further stated that the contribution of the Transvaal to the burden of the war was one of honour, and one which no colonial statesman of any credit could ignore. That was quite a recent statement from Lord Milner, but they had had no information as to the views of the Government upon this subject for more than a year.

His hon. and learned friend the Member for Dumfries seemed to indicate that the Colonial Secretary had held the idea that since the South African Loan Bill was introduced it had been practically impossible to attempt to demand the issue of this £30,000,000 loan. He did not think that idea was quite accurate. In December, 1903, the Governor of the Transvaal telegraphed to the Colonial Secretary stating that he was expecting instructions with regard to the first instalment of that loan, and there were several communications with regard to the issue of the loan in accordance with the scheme of the Loan Bill, but it was not issued. He contended that the loan of £30,000,000 was not issued in 1903, not on the ground that the finances of the Transvaal would not bear it, but on account of the state of the money market. In the last few months there had been considerable improvement in the finances of the Transvaal. Therefore it did not lie in the mouth of the right hon. Gentleman to meet this argument on the ground of the condition of the finances of the Transvaal. They had not yet got the complete figures, but they had been given up to the end of December last. The figures they had got, however, marked a very considerable improvement, and he thought they might deduce from Lord Milner's statement that in his view the possibility of issuing the first instalment of the £30,000,000 loan was within a reasonable distance. He wished to remind the Committee of the White Paper which was issued with the Loan Bill, explaining the finance upon which it was founded. That Paper showed the way in which the interest was to be paid, and it stated that at first there would probably be a deficit, but that afterwards there would be a surplus. If that was the case in 1903, when the Transvaal finances were not so hopeful as at the present time, surely now that they had turned the corner they might fairly expect that some steps would be taken for the issue of the first instalment of this loan. With regard to the guarantors, he did not want to go into details as to their position, but he did not think they had been very eager.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington) dissented.

MR. BUCHANAN said at the beginning they had the most equivocal and categorical statement as to the way in which they had given their guarantee. They were going to underwrite the whole amount, and they were not going to take any preference or commission, and it was to be a full and complete guarantee. Up to the present they had shown that they were not particularly eager to join in the issue of the first instalment of this loan. When they remembered the patriotic expressions with which they had expressed their readiness to join in this guarantee he thought they had good reason to be disappointed at the want of eagerness amongst the guarantors at the present moment. He asked the other day whether there had been any communication between the Colonial Office and the guarantors since 1904, and he was informed that there had been none. Absolutely all negotiations between them had ceased since February, 1904. He further asked if there had been any correspondence between the Home and the Transvaal Government upon this question, and he was informed that all the correspondence had been of a private and confidential character, and there was no correspondence which could be presented to the House. He thought some announcement ought to be made of the intentions of the Government with regard to asking the Transvaal to take steps for the issue, at any rate, of the first part of the loan, and that the Committee ought to have some more detailed statement of the condition of the Transvaal finances. Lord Milner appeared to contemplate the possibility of the Transvaal Government borrowing more money for capital expenditure, and he should like some information upon that point as well as upon the various points he had raised.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said they had been told that it was desirable that they should be taught to think Imperially. In his opinion he thought it was quite time that the Government should be taught to weigh jam Imperially. He was bound to observe that the hon.

Member for Gravesend was not quite so flamboyant upon the subject of preference when that question was before the House, because he took refuge in the previous Question.

Sir GILBERT PARKER: Does the hon. Member assume that I am not prepared to defend the principles which I hold?

Dr. MACNAMARA said he did not assume anything, but at any rate he had not the courage to support his views on that occasion. With regard to the question of local self-government in the Transvaal, he had no wish to place difficulties in the way of the Government, but he regretted that they had determined to proceed by way of letters patent. The South African War lasted thirty-seven months, cost them £250,000,000, and 450,000 British troops were engaged in it, and if ever there was a case in which procedure should be by statutory enactment which would have come fully before the House for decision this was such a case. He wished to know how far they would be in a position to discuss the form of the letters patent. Would it be in detail or would they be substantially perfected before the House had an opportunity of considering them? He understood that in the Government of the Transvaal they were going to keep the official element, take away the nominated members, and substitute for them elected members.

The Colonial Secretary had said that when the question of the Chinese Labour Ordinance was put before the representatives elected by the country they would see who was right and who was wrong upon that great issue, and that great issue was, did the country approve of the Ordinance? He held that the immediate purpose of the Government in conferring self-government on the Transvaal was to obtain a vote on the Labour Ordinance, and he warned the Colonial Secretary that it would be very disastrous indeed for the future of the Transvaal if, for the sake of securing a verdict favourable to that Ordinance, he in any way gerrymandered the Constitution. He would like to know why the Government did not propose to ask for a contribution from the Orange River Colony? They would have to watch this question with great care, because the Government had very peculiar views as to what was the expressed wish of the people of the Transvaal on the question of the Chinese Ordinance. The right hon. Gentleman sent a telegram to the successful candidate at the Chertsey election, in which he asked all fair-minded men to remember that the labourers who came willingly upon the terms offered to them had been introduced into the Transvaal at the express wish of the white population. That was the view of the Government. On May 20th, 1903, in reply to the Australian Federal Government, who protested against the introduction of the coolie into South Africa until a *referendum* had been taken as to the views of the white population, the right hon. Gentleman sent a cable stating that His Majesty's Government adhered to the policy of treating the Transvaal as a self-governing colony where Imperial interests were not concerned. How had they done this? The Legislative Council consisted of twenty-seven persons, thirteen of them officials and fourteen nominated persons, and twenty-two of these gentlemen had voted in favour of the Labour Ordinance. And yet the Colonial Secretary had thought fit to inform the electors of Chertsey that the opinion of such a Council was the expressed wish of the white population of the Transvaal, and the Australian Federal Government had been informed that the Transvaal was being treated as a self-governing colony. He did not think such statements would deceive anybody, and they would not influence a single vote in the country in favour of the Government. They would, however be likely to cause exasperation in a country which had cost this country already quite enough in blood and treasure.

Mr. LYTTELTON: I think the circumstances of the Government's abstention at the present moment from the issue of £10,000,000, the first instalment of the loan no doubt require explanation; but I do not think that when the full facts of the case are put before the House they will require argument, or at any rate much argument. It is in placing the full facts of the case before the House that I shall seek the justification of His Majesty's Government for that abstention. I say in the first place that the financial state of the Transvaal is remarkably good, all things considered; but it must be remembered that it is less than three years since peace was concluded. In the interval it has been necessary to reconstruct the entire economic fabric of the Transvaal, to restore the people to their dwellings, to rebuild their dwellings, to restock their farms, and to give them seed for planting. You have to make up the leeway in the deterioration which naturally took place during three years in the mines; the railways have had to be repaired and reconstructed, the bridges have had to be rebuilt, and the roads to be made. It has been necessary, in fact, to reconstruct the entire condition of things, which had been, of course, desolated by the war. For that purpose, among others, a development loan of £35,000,000 was guaranteed by this country. It was secured on the revenues of the Transvaal and on the railway receipts of the Inter-Colonial Council. You had, therefore, as good a security as it was possible to have. There is an ample balance to secure the loan, and there is not the slightest doubt that it will always be paid. I venture to say that any one of us who had the money would be very glad to have a share in the loan. When you have taken that guarantee into consideration, when you have reckoned the £1,400,000 which is the interest on the £35,000,000, and when you have made every provision for the expenses of government in the Transvaal, you have about a balance of ordinary revenue and expenditure. In June, which is the end of the financial year, there is estimated to be a slight deficit. But assume that the greater degree of prosperity may result in financial equilibrium at the end of June, 1905. We are asked why we do not issue the war contribution, which is to take the form of a loan of £30,000,000 at 4 per cent., secured on the revenues of the Transvaal. I say in the first place, without fear of contradiction, from those experienced in colonial affairs, that when ordinary revenue and expenditure balance in a Crown Colony it is entirely against all precedent in the financial administration of either Party to permit a Crown colony to issue further loans. You have then nothing to issue them on. I say, therefore, with great respect to those who have advanced the contrary opinion, that even if you stop there, then you have a reason for not issuing the promised war contribution. There is no surplus on which to issue it at present, although we anticipate in the course of the next twelve months a good surplus. I wish to be very moderate in my statements in regard to the future; I do not profess to be an experienced financier, and although we have good reason to believe that there will be a reasonable and substantial surplus in 1905–6, still at the present moment, in a state of financial equilibrium, I say we are not justified in issuing the £30,000,000 loan.

But it may be said that the circumstances of the Transvaal are peculiar, because there has been a promise—it has always been put very loosely—that the £30,000,000 would be paid; and the first £10,000,000, it is vaguely said, has been guaranteed by the capitalists of the Rand. [Cries of "Not vaguely."] It is generally said. Please look at the facts. Every business man will recognise them at once. A contract of guarantee is ambiguous. It might be supposed that the capitalists of the Transvaal had guaranteed both the principal and interest of the first £10,000,000

*MR. McCRAE: Nobody said so.

MR. LYTTELTON: I believe nobody said so, and I am sure the hon. Gentleman, who is very well informed, would not say so, but I think from what passed in this House before, and certainly from what I have heard outside, there is a general belief that the Government, by asking for £10,000,000 at the present moment and issuing the loan, could obtain the money from the pockets of the capitalists of the Transvaal, and so make the position of the British taxpayer so much the lighter. I believe that was the idea. Now, I will point out that that is an absolute delusion. The contract was not a guarantee for principal and interest. It was an underwriting contract. I do not profess to be a City man myself, but everybody who has been in the City tells me that at the present moment, if you chose to issue that £10,000,000 at 4 per cent., there would not be the slightest difficulty in getting the money. I do not think that is disputed. Of course hon. Members will see in a moment that what would happen would be this. That loan would be issued, it would be subscribed, I venture to say—though no expert in these matters—many times over at 4 per cent. [An Hon. Member: At par?] Yes, I venture to say that it would go beyond par, probably to 101 or 102. Now please consider the consequence. The consequence is that the capitalists of the Transvaal, instead of paying the taxpayers of this country £10,000,000 out of their pockets, would receive in premiums on that loan something like £500,000. Is it not ridiculous to blame us for not bleeding the capitalists when the effect of their being bled would end in putting half a million into their pockets?

*Mr. McCRAE: That is not so.

Mr LYTTELTON: The House has heard my argument, and I am speaking in the hearing of gentlemen who know the circumstances of the money market better than I know them.

Mr. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): Does not the 4 per cent. include the sinking fund?

Mr. LYTTELTON: It does not include the sinking fund. But let me allow for a margin of error. Let me suppose that the 4 per cent. loan would not go beyond par. In that case the capitalists of the Transvaal would lose or gain nothing, but the burden of this contribution would fall, not upon them, but upon the taxpayers of the Transvaal. I think that it is only justice to the gentlemen who made that engagement to say that in 1902 the circumstances of the Transvaal were widely different. There was a period which no one could foresee when the economic prosperity of the country would revive. This underwriting contract was made by the capitalists without any commission, without any certainty what the results of it would be, when, indeed, their position might be one of serious loss. They ought to have the credit of that. But do not let us hear any more of the plea that we can get £10,000,000 out of these gentlemen when, in point of fact, the result of such an operation would be to put money into their pockets.

*Mr. McCRAE: You are mis-stating the case.

Mr. LYTTELTON: I do not wish to make any statement beyond bringing to the attention of hon. Members the great seriousness of what the contract of underwriting was. What was the so-called contract for £30,000,000? It was an undertaking made by fourteen prominent citizens of the Witwatersrand. They described themselves as being large taxpayers resident on the Witwatersrand, and to these fourteen members were added the Johannesburg Town Council, the chambers of mines and commerce, the Stock Exchange, and other bodies. I think that, looking at the list with perfect impartiality, we would say that it was a very representative body. What did they resolve to do? Great as my admiration is for my right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham, I think that one of the most important and triumphant of his feats is to have secured a resolution from that body to this effect. It was the result of a powerful and magnetic personality. This was the resolution—

> "This meeting, consisting of large taxpayers resident on the Witwatersrand, expresses its approval of the principle that the colony should make a voluntary contribution to the Imperial Government of £30,000,000 towards the cost of the recent war, and that this sum be a debt on the public revenues of this colony, the amount to be provided by a 4 per cent. loan raised in three yearly instalments of £10,000,000 each, commencing January, 1904."

That is the arrangement. [An Hon. Member: But that is not a guarantee.] I thought I had made the matters of the guarantee clear to the hon. Gentleman who interrupted me. The guarantee was £10,000,000, to be issued at 4 per cent., secured on the revenues of the Transvaal. This is £30,000,000. Will hon. Gentlemen be kind enough to keep these two things separate? That is the promise made by leading residents on the Witwatersrand. My right hon. friend the late Colonial Secretary, in recounting the circumstances and the conditions on which this loan was made, enumerated them with great precision. It is perfectly true he did say that the £30,000,000 of war contribution was part of the arrangement of the £35,000,000 guarantee. But he said also that we have always laid down two conditions on which we thought it possible to obtain this assistance. I agree that was part of the arrangement whereby the guarantee of £35,000,000 was made, but what are the other conditions? There were three other conditions. First, that we did not intend to impose any additional taxation in the Transvaal beyond the 10 per cent. profit tax we had put on the mining industry. Secondly, that we should not put upon them any obligation which would hinder a prompt and sufficient development of the country. That has always been a cardinal feature of the policy of the Government. And the third condition was "that any contribution which is to be made should be made willingly, voluntarily, and not be enforced or imposed upon them by the superior Power." There was a further engagement which I should notice, namely, "that the loan should not be issued when market conditions were unfavourable." Please let the House consider this matter, as I only wish to put the abolute facts before them. I have read my right hon. friend's words. If we now exacted this loan of £30,000,000 are we in a position to say that we should not enforce or impose it by the superior Power? I pointed out at the beginning of my speech that there was only an equilibrium of revenue and expenditure, and that we were not in a position to make such a demand at any time, and more particularly when the whole right of our obligation arises from an arrangement made, and that arrangement is on the terms that the contribution is only to be made willingly and voluntarily. Can it be said that the imposition of this obligation now would not hinder the proper and sufficient development of the country? I say it would take away for some years the entire surplus revenue of the colony; and everybody knows that when a colony is in the condition of the Transvaal development works are exceedingly urgent; and if you wish to make a good thing of the colony, if you wish results from the Transvaal such as have been seen in many of the self-governing Colonies, I say, Do not ride the horse too hard at the beginning. Let him get on his legs. Do not gallop him on deep ground. Treat him gently; he will gallop well enough when you get him on the straight afterwards. I wish to ask this question seriously, is anybody who follows me in a position to say, were we to issue this £30,000,000 loan at the present moment, that it could be done without imposing fresh taxation, without hindering its proper and sufficient development, or without imposing the will of the superior Power on the Transvaal, and not voluntarily by the Transvaal? If he cannot affirm these three propositions, then in asking the House to issue this loan he is asking it to break the conditions which were made. [Cries of "Oh."] Yes, he is asking us to break the conditions which were made by my right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham, and which were stated with the utmost lucidity to the House of Commons.

I ought to mention that the debt of the Transvaal, with a population of 300,000 men, is £35,000,000, and that debt has been undertaken and provision made for the payment of interest on the debt within three years of a long and desolating war. If you add £30,000,000 more you would have a debt of £65,000,000. The figures of population must not be pressed too far, because you have an industrial population of Kaffirs and Chinamen also, which amount, I daresay, altogether to six or seven times that number. It would not be right to treat it as a matter affecting the whites only, because you have a great deal of industrial potentiality; but still, if you were to multiply that 300,000 by six or seven, such a debt would be a very heavy burden at the present moment. I venture to think it ought not to be imposed at a moment when we are on the eve of granting them representative government. I am endeavouring to place the exact facts of the case before hon. Members. They may possibly not accept them. The hon. Member for Camberwell and the hon. Member for East Perthshire stated that legislation is required before this debt of £30,000,000 can be imposed. Legislation is required, and I do not deny that if we were to exercise our powers at the present moment, and if we were to force the vote through the present Legislative Council by the use of the official vote we could possibly pass that legislation.

DR. MACNAMARA: Like the Ordinance.

MR. LYTTELTON: If the hon. Member's memory was as good as I thought it was he would remember that the official vote was not used on that occasion.

DR. MACNAMARA: The Ordinance was carried by twenty-two to four, and the total membership, official and nominated, is twenty-seven.

MR. LYTTELTON: The hon. Member appears to think that is an answer. If his memory was as good as I thought it was, he would know that specific injunctions were given from home that the official members were to vote as they pleased.

MR. EMMOTT (Oldham): Did any vote against? [Cries of "No."]

MR. LYTTELTON: Yes, I think four did. I do not wish to pursue that interruption. It is not germane to what I am saying. If we were to force the necessary legislation through by the use of the official vote, instructing every member of the Government that he must vote for it or resign his seat, I am not at all sure that we would get it through, but we should have a chance of getting it through. But, assuming that we should get it, do hon. Members think such a course would be wise or in conformity with the traditions of colonial administration in this country? On the eve of the grant of a large measure of representative government—yes, and upon a very democratic franchise—do they think it would be wise to exact from a moribund Assembly a contribution of £30,000,000, plus the £35,000,000 already upon the shoulders of the taxpayers of the Transvaal? I say it would be most unwise, and I should be surprised if any Member of the Party opposite got up and said that it would be otherwise than most unwise and impolitic to force such a vote through a moribund nominated Assembly.

Now, I have endeavoured to show that the Government are fully justified in abstaining at the present moment from forcing this contribution, so to say, at the point of the bayonet from the Transvaal. I have pointed out the circumstances of their financial condition. I have pointed out the conditions on which my predecessor obtained this concession from the capitalists of the Transvaal. I have pointed out the circumstances of the finances of the colony at the present moment, and the financial equilibrium. These are all against the immediate imposition of this war contribution loan. Now let me say why I consider—avoiding anything like undue optimism—that we have an excellent chance of obtaining in due time, and in the near future, this contribution. In the year 1905–6 the Premier Diamond Mine falls into, so to say, profitable uses. At present, as hon. Gentlemen who are familiar with the country know, all the revenue of the mine is carried to capital account, to pay for the working expenses and plant. But that ceases, as I have said, in the present financial year. So far as my information goes, the share of the profits of the mine to which the Transvaal Government are entitled, will bring them in between £400,000 and £500,000 a year, and £400,000 would be sufficient to pay the interest on the first £10,000,000. But that is not all; although I do not wish to put this too highly. I do not think the full profits of the gold mines which have resulted from the introduction of Chinese labour have yet begun to fructify, although at the end of 1905–6 they will have made up the leeway. Still, I believe that in the course of this financial year the return of 10 per cent. of the profits which go to the Transvaal Government will on that account be much larger than they are now. If I am right in what I have said about the mines, and if the rest of the country continues to expand in prosperity at the same rate as it is progressing now, the colony will soon be placed in a position in which there will be some ground, at any rate, for saying that there will be a surplus revenue sufficient to serve the interest on the loan of £10,000,000. Of course, we must all recognise that the profits of the diamond mines to which I have referred, would be, to a prudent investor, of a somewhat speculative and conjectural kind. Still, there they are, and there is every hope that they will expand.

In the next place, our fellow-subjects in the Transvaal ought to remember, and I believe they do remember, that we have fulfilled our part of the bargain which was made with them by my right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham. That is to say, as the first part of the arrangement whereby they promised us £30,000,000, we guaranteed them £35,000,000 as a development loan. Our fellow-subjects must remember that they have obtained a large sum, not by any means all used up in development but also in the repatriation of the Boers, and the reconstruction of farms, on undoubtedly easier terms than they would have had without our guarantee. I think hon. Gentlemen familiar with this matter fully admit that they obtained that loan 1 per cent cheaper than they would have got it without our guarantee and had they had to rely upon their own resources. Just think what that means. That means that as a result of that guarantee, which was, no doubt, given to them as part of the arrangement, they are richer by £350,000 a year than they would have been had we not given the guarantee. Our friends in the Transvaal ought to remember that. I have not the slightest doubt they will remember it.

Now let me review for a moment the financial position, and pray let the House remember I am only giving the results of estimates on the present figures. On the diamond mines alone at the present rate of production the probable accretion to the Transvaal revenue is something like £400,000 a year. The result of our guaranteeing the £35,000,000 betters the position of the Transvaal by £300,000 a year. That surely gives us a right to say, "Consider how we have treated you with consideration in not pressing you at a time when your revenue did not exceed your expenses. We have not pressed the loan when we might have done so, because we believed it would be more in consonance with the traditions of this country to wait until elected representatives should willingly take on themselves this debt rather than that we should rely on an undertaking which was got in the circumstances I have narrated." Above all, we can say to them, "Remember your better position. Remember the bargain that some of your representatives made. Remember the fulfilment of every tittle of the bargain that we made on our side. Lastly, remember the immense sacrifices which this country has made. Yes, not as has been often said, for the gold mines, but remember the immense sacrifices we have made for the British Empire in South Africa. Of those sacrifices you among others have obtained the benefit. When you are in a position, without adding to your taxation and without arresting the development of the country, to fulfil the bargain you made, then we may surely rely upon you to fulfil that which has now become a debt—not a legal debt, but a debt of honour—such as all honourable men desire to discharge."

Now, let me just review in a few sentences the arguments I have endeavoured to put before the House. I think it would be most wrong of me to keep back any facts, so far as they are present to my mind, and I wish the House to be fully seised of all the facts. We admit that at the present moment it would be competent to the Government to force through legislation and to raise £10,000,000 of money. We agree that that is possible, though the revenue shows no excess over expenditure at the present moment. We agree that in the next financial year sufficient revenue may possibly accrue to pay the interest on that sum. But we deliberately refrain from forcing legislation through a nominated Assembly. We are, above all, most anxious to avoid any appearance or any colour of exaction or compulsion. We most earnestly desire, and I believe hon. Members opposite earnestly desire it also, in no way to arrest the progress and development of the colony. We desire not to impose any undue taxation upon its inhabitants. We are, indeed —I do not hestiate to say it, and I hope our successors will not forget it—we are all most anxious to obtain a contribution towards the heavy cost of the war; but we are even more anxious, and we trust that hon. Gentlemen opposite also will be more anxious, that that contribution should be paid in the willing spirit in which it was promised, and which represented the unabated desire of those who promised it to share the burden cast on the Motherland.

SIR M. HICKS BEACH (Bristol, W.): Perhaps the House will allow me to intervene for a short time in this debate, because I feel I have some special responsibility with regard to the matter now under consideration. When I was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and had to make proposals to the House from time to time to raise funds for the prosecution of the South African War, I often had occasion to allude to the portion of the cost of that war which it might be possible to recover from the Transvaal; and though I never named a sum, and though I do not think my anticipations were very sanguine, yet I always held out an expectation that there would be a substantial sum recoverable by way of indemnity from the Transvaal. I was, therefore, very glad when, I think nearly two years ago, my right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham, after his return from South Africa, on introducing to this House a Bill for the guarantee of the loan of £35,000,00 for the Transvaal, stated that he had made an arrangement by which at any rate those who could then speak with some responsibility for the Transvaal agreed to accept a debt of £30,000,000 from the Transvaal to this country as an indemnity, so to speak, towards the expenses of the South African War. I remember very well that my right hon. friend rather minimised at the time the amount of that contribution. He said that more might have been expected, that if we had left the matter open possibly more might have been received, but that it was for the advantage of all that the matter should then be closed, that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush, or words to that effect, and that we had better take the £30,000,000 instead of expecting an indefinite and larger sum. Well, Sir, on the faith of that statement and, as my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary has said this evening, as part of that arrangement, Parliament guaranteed the loan of £35,000,000 to the Transvaal, an act which has never before been done by the Parliament of this country for any colony throughout all our possessions, but which was perfectly justifiable and perfectly necessary as part of the general arrangement after all that had happened in the South African War. Sir, this House accepted that arrangement as a whole. And although I remember I ventured at the time myself to express some little doubt as to whether the first ten millions would be forthcoming and as to whether the second and the third ten millions would be forthcoming at the time when they might be expected to fall due, yet it was generally expected that that arrangement, that that bargain with Parliament, as I call it, would be thoroughly and completely fulfilled—that in fact, on guaranteeing the £35,000,000, Parliament might expect on behalf of the taxpayers of this country the contribution of £30,000,000 from the Transvaal.

Well, Sir, the first ten millions of that loan was due more than a year ago. It was not issued, and it was rightly not issued, for the only effect of its issue would have been to impose a liability at that time, not upon the taxpayers of the Transvaal, but on the taxpayers of this country for the interest of that debt. Any one who has followed the progress of the revenue and expenditure of the Transvaal will have seen that the optimist expectations of two years ago were disappointed and that it was absolutely impossible that the Transvaal revenue should pay the interest upon that £10,000,000; and therefore, Sir, my right hon. friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer and His Majesty's Government were absolutely justified, and are still, in my opinion, absolutely justified, in declining to take any steps towards the issue of that first £10,000,000. But, Sir, what I want to know is this. We passed here an Act of Parliament guaranteeing that £35,000,000. Why was not the Transvaal Legislature asked at the same time to pass an Ordinance imposing on the Transvaal the £30,000,000 which His Majesty's Government proposed to this House as part of the bargain? I really do not know why this necessary step was not taken. My right hon. friend says that it is not well that it should be attempted now. Well, I admit that there is force in his argument. For reasons which, no doubt, seem adequate, His Majesty's Government have decided to confer representative government upon the Transvaal. I must say I hope it is not premature; but at any rate it is for them, not for me, to judge. But in conferring representative government on the Transvaal, and within a few weeks from the time of conferring it, I admit there is force in the argument of the Secretary for the Colonies that it would be unpleasant to force through a nominated Legislature a Bill or Ordinance for imposing a debt of £30,000,000 upon the Colony. I admit that. Well, but, Sir, let me pursue this a little more. I do not propose to dwell upon the question of the guarantee of the war loan. I think a great deal too much has been made of that from both sides. If the Transvaal credit was good it was perfectly obvious that that guarantee was really worth nothing at all; but if the Colonial Government felt bound to issue that £10,000,000 at 4 per cent.—and they would be foolish if they did—the mine owners might put a very handsome little profit into their pockets. But I do not wish the loan to be issued a moment before the Transvaal revenue is sufficient to pay the interest upon it, because I do not want that interest to fall on the taxpayers of this country. His Majesty's Government have decided to confer representative government on the Transvaal, and that would presumably give to that Government full control of the revenue of the Transvaal from whatever source it is derived—from taxation, from mining receipts, from every source of every kind.

Now my right hon. friend says quite rightly that my right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham, when he put forward the conditions upon which, in his opinion, this charge of £30,000,000 should be imposed on the Transvaal, said, in the first place, that it should not require additional taxation; in the second place, that it should not interfere with the proper development of the country; and, thirdly, that it should be willingly undertaken. Well, it was willingly undertaken two years ago. There is no question of imposing additional taxation to bear the interest of this debt; and my right hon. friend has said this evening that he anticipates that the profits from the Premier Diamond Mines to the Transvaal revenue in 1905–6 will amount to £400,000, while there are other mining rights he has referred to as matters that will largely increase the Transvaal revenue. I would earnestly beg His Majesty's Government to consider whether, in giving representative government to the Transvaal, they may not—whether they ought not to—take security for this debt of honour to this country, a debt which was part of the bargain made with this House on the whole matter, by retaining in their power when they give representative government this revenue from the Premier Diamond Mines and other mining rights in the country. That is imposing no new taxation on the Transvaal; it is not injurious to the development of the country; it is merely taking ordinary, proper, business-like security for the payment of a debt of honour when giving representative government. I do not wish to detain the House any longer. I do not find any fault with His Majesty's Government for what they have done; but I do hope that certain allusions in the speech of my right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary to the burden of this £65,000,000 of debt and the necessity to devote funds to the development of the Transvaal do not portend a breach of faith with the House, do not portend a readiness to tell us at some future time that we are to allow the new representative Assembly to wipe off this debt altogether, after all that has passed.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) said he had no wish to detain the House after the speech to which they had just listened from the right hon. Member for West Bristol. He desired to say, in the first place, that he believed the House of Commons knew, when the arrangement was made, that it was a two-sided arrangement—on the one side that this country was to guarantee the loan of £35,000,000 and on the other side that we were to receive £30,000,000 as a war indemnity. In other words the arrangement was one compacted body of agreement. He had to thank, quite seriously, the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary for the first full statement giving the truth of the matter which the House and country had ever had. He believed that the country would now realise that this House had been deluded by the imposture originally perpetrated upon it at the inception of this loan business. His view in regard to the matter was that the taxpayers had a bargain fully laid before them, expressed in the language of the letter of Mr. Eckstein, embodied in the Bluebook—

> "His Majesty's Government would not desire to make any profit out of the premiums on the loan; the arrangement being that the British public should receive a definite sum of £30,000,000 in relief of the war burden on the British taxpayer."

That definite sum for the relief of war taxation was gradually disappearing. The Colonial Secretary had stated the difficulties of the situation; but he failed to see that the state of affairs now existing in the Transvaal, which was the same as the state of things that existed when the arrangement was made, should be used as an argument for postponing the fulfilment of that undertaking. They were never informed that this loan was only to be issued when they were assured that the chances were excellent in a speculative gamble upon diamond mines, because that was what it came to in the present situation. He sympathised with the view that it was altogether out of the question to attempt to force this loan upon the Transvaal at the present time. He feared that for many years that colony would be unable to face the burden of its debt; and therefore his hope with regard to the raising of this money was of the most shadowy description. He did not say the time had come to forego our claim; but, if these discoveries as to the repayment of the loan had been made at the time the arrangement was initiated, he doubted whether the electors of the country, or the Members of that House, would have assented to such a transaction. The House of Commons should not be treated in this manner.

With regard to the Orange River Colony, he did not think that the House had sufficiently considered that part of His Majesty's dominions. It was universally considered that before the war it was governed with the greatest harmony. He had before him a memorial signed by burghers in the neighbourhood of Bloemfontein who had surrendered their arms and obtained protection under the proclamation issued by Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener. These memorialists, who complained of the manner in which their claims for compensation had been dealt with, were confronted with a complete *non possumus* on the part of the Governor of the Orange River Colony, and were informed by Sir H. Goold-Adams that there was no hope of his being able to grant what the petitioners asked for. They stated that claims had been paid on a basis of compensation varying from 15 per cent. to 2½ per cent., and that it was impossible to understand the reasons which influenced the Commissioners. Receipts which were stated by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham to be as good as Bank of England notes remained still unpaid. In Kroonstadt, too, there was a feeling of absolute disgust with what was considered the breach of faith on the part of the British Government in regard to payments under receipts given by British officers. Would the House of Commons believe that the answer given by Sir H. Goold-Adams, in reply to a representation from the municipality of Wynberg, was that a great many of the memorialists might be thankful that they had not had all their goods confiscated, or that they not had been shot, because a proclamation had been issued that every one who did not come in on September 1st would be regarded as a rebel and his property confiscated, and that every person breaking his oath would be shot. That was a senseless taunt, which had pierced the heart of these people, and had created a strong feeling of unrest and dissatisfaction. The time had come when there ought to be a very much fuller inquiry into the whole position of affairs in South Africa. They must get rid of prejudiced testimony on either side. They must have an impartial inquiry into how matters stood, not only on the labour question, but also on the general question of finance and upon the necessity for a further grant in order to enable the honourable word of Great Britain to be fulfilled, otherwise they would never have peace in that part of His Majesty's dominions.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) said that the Colonial Secretary, referring to the £30,000,000 loan, quoted from his predecessor's speech of 6th May, 1903, a certain condition, viz., that the contribution should be a voluntary undertaking. He should like to remind the right hon. Gentleman that his predecessor, during his tour in South Africa, spoke of £70,000,000 or £100,000,000, which he considered was due by the colonies; and he proceeded further to claim £30,000,000. Therefore the argument of the Colonial Secretary fell to the ground; and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol was perfectly justified in speaking as strongly as he did in the matter. What they had to complain of was not a breach of faith between the Boers and this House, but between the Government and this House. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham asked directly and plainly for £35,000,000 as a loan on the distinct understanding that the first instalment of the £30,000,000 would be received in 1904, and other instalments within a period of three years. He was quite sure that it was that assurance that induced the House to pass the proposal. He wished to ask the Colonial Secretary a question with reference to £1,250,000 due on account of the railways which were handed over to the civil Government at the end of the war. The matter was discussed twelve months ago, and they were then told by the officials of the War Office that it was an acknowledged debt, and that Lord Milner had acknowledged that this amount was due to the Home Government. Notwithstanding this, the other day the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in answering a Question of his, had said that the Home Government had only received £500,000, and that that amount had been accepted in full settlement of the claims. On what ground did the Colonial Government base their repudiation of that debt? Why should such a large sum be put on the shoulders of the British taxpayers in order to relieve the colonial taxpayer? The English taxpayer had to bear a heavy burden enough; and it should not be made heavier by these continual remissions on the part of the Colonial Office.

Mr. LYTTELTON: That debt has never been acknowledged by the Transvaal, and it has never been acknowledged by me: £1,250,000 was claimed by the War Office from the Transvaal in respect, if I remember aright, of certain accretions to the value of the railway. If somebody said it was acknowledged——

Mr. WHITLEY: The Government said so.

Mr. LYTTELTON: They may have said so, but it is not so. The claim of the War Office was put forward on the footing that it had taken possession of the railways in the Transvaal during the war, and added to those railways certain rolling stock and made certain branches which had increased their capital value. The value of those accretions was claimed as £1,250,000, and that was acknowledged. Perhaps sufficient precaution was not taken in stating that the word acknowledged meant that the sum of £1,250,000 was acknowledged to be the sum due in respect of those accretions, unless there was any set-off against them. Now there was a set-off against them. It was that during the progress of the war the railways — for which the Transvaal Government had paid something like £14,000,000 on a footing that they were in perfectly good order—became by military user damaged to the extent of a very large sum of money. The position ultimately was that on the one side the War Office were asking for all benefit which accrued to the railways during their tenure, and on the other side were denying the burden which attached to them by reason of their damage. I do not think any reasonable man would admit that that was a solid position. Therefore a compromise was made, and the claim of £1,250,000 was reduced to £500,000, on grounds that I think were absolutely sound.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said the Committee was indebted to the right hon. Gentleman for his clear explanation of the position. He wished to ask whether the guarantee of the mineowners rested merely on the resolution of the meeting, or was it ever reduced to any formal shape? Was it obligatory or voluntary, joint or several, or both? In the event of death or failure occurring among the guarantors, would the residue remain liable for the whole amount? In short, what was the *status* of the guarantors?

Mr. LYTTELTON: In my opinion—but the hon. Member is as well able to judge as I am—this is not a legal obligation. It is a voluntary obligation which would not, were the Government disposed to sue, be one which we could enforce in law.

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT: Is it in writing?

Mr. LYTTELTON: It is not in writing beyond that set forth in the Blue-book.

Mr. LABOUCHERE said that the result of the debate showed that the taxpayer had been done out of £30,000,000, and the House of Commons had, under false pretences, been induced to vote a guarantee of £36,000,000. The moral was that they ought not to send a gentleman to discuss with the Transvaal who was a special friend of the Transvaalers when he had to look after the interest of the taxpayers, although he might have a powerful and magnetic mind. It was his sole business to look after the taxpayers and not be humbugged by those people in Park Lane. He did not believe any business man in that House would give more than £5 for the chance of their getting any of that £30,000,000. He intended to divide the House, after they had got that Vote, against the whole Vote as a protest against the way the Government, in whom he had no confidence whatever, were getting that money. If the Vote was *bona fide* to be devoted to the Civil Service it would carry the Government on for five months, when the House would be breaking up; but when the money was to be spent on naval and military matters that was in itself a sufficient reason for opposing the Vote. His confidence in the Government was not a question of millions, it was not even a question of half-a-crown, and he would therefore fall back on the old constitutional procedure that when a Member had no confidence in a Government he should do his best to turn them out.

***Mr. AINSWORTH** (Argyllshire) said he thought that the money spent on the railways should be refunded. Further there were a large number of claims for damage, even from persons who fought with us during the war, which were still unpaid. There was one case to his own knowledge in which a colonist of standing, who fought on our side, had not yet been compensated for the destruction of his two farms by our own troops. He hoped that case would be settled without delay.

And, it being Midnight, the Chairman proceeded, in pursuance of Standing Order No. 15, to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Vote.

Question put, "That Item, Class 2 Vote 6 (Colonial Office), be reduced by £100."

The Committee divided; Ayes, 143; Noes, 206. (Division List No. 66.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Asquith, Rt Hon. Herbert Henry
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt EC(S Andrw'sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert

Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tepperary, N.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Reddy, M.
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur W. (N. Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos H. A. E.
Colomb, Rt Hon. Sir John C. R
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dorington, Rt Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S.W.)
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredrk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gore, Hon S. F. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Halsey, Rt Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nerry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir James (Staffords N. W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End
Lawson, J. Grant (Yorks. N.R.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfriesshire
Milvain, Thomas
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer

Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Sackville, Col. S. G. (Stopford)
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, HC (North'mbTyneside)
Smith, RtHnJ. Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.HnJ.G (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt Hn Sir William H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. G.E (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Original Question put—

The Committee divided; Ayes, 200 Noes, 138. (Division List No. 67.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brodrick, Rt Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C. R
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S
Cross, Alexander (Glasgow)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dorington, Rt Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'r.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredrk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. C. of (L'd'nd'rry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords. N. W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks N. R
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool
M'Calmont, Colonel James
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire

Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Peel, Hn.Wm. RobertWellesley
Percy, Earl
Plummer, Sir Walter R
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne

Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sackville, Co. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith,H.C.(North'mbTyneside
Smith,RtHnJ.Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Stanley,Hon. Arthur(Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.
Stewart, Sir MarkJ.M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Talbot,RtHn.J.G. (Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J, Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellice,Capt.EC.S,(Andrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn Herbert John

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hardie,J.Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr.Charles Fredrk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kilbride, Denis
Labouchere, Henry
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.

Norman, Henry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Reddy, M.
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely,Maj.J.E.B. (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan.,E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York W. R.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.

Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, Luke (York, E R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Lough and Mr. John Wilson (Durham)

And, it being after Midnight, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolution to be reported upon Wednesday; Committee to sit again to-morrow.

TRADE MARKS BILL.

Read a second time, and committed to a Select Committee.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

*The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) moved that the Committee of Public Accounts consist of fifteen members; that Sir F. Banbury, Mr. Blake, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. V. Cavendish, M. Cohen, Mr. C. Corbett, Sir T. Esmonde, Mr. Goddard, Sir B. Gurdon, Sir A. Hayter, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Sir R. Mowbray, Mr. Pym, and Mr. Yerburgh be members of the Committee; that the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records; that five be the quorum.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Committee of Public Accounts do consist of Fifteen Members."

The Committee was accordingly nominated of,—Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Blake, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Victor Cavendish, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Goddard, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir Arthur Hayter, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Sir Robert Mowbray, Mr. Pym, and Mr. Yerburgh.

That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers and records.

"That Five be the quorum."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said he did not wish to oppose the Motion; but would ask whether, after the appointment of this Committee, an opportunity would be given for an early discussion of the stores question. Would the Committee discuss the stores account and give the House an early Report upon it?

*Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD said that, as regarded the discussion by the whole House, the Prime Minister had already promised a day for the discussion of the Report. As regarded the way in which the discussion was taken before the Accounts Committee, that was a matter for the Committee to settle themselves.

Dr. MACNAMARA said that the discussion on the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General—

*Mr. SPEAKER said the present discussion was not in order on this question. The hon. Member had better ask a Question of the Leader of the House on the subject to-morrow.

*Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD said that the Public Accounts Committee would probably take a considerable time to examine the accounts and report to the House. But he understood that the Prime Minister did not intend to withhold from the House the opportunity of discussing the subject until the Committee reported.

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered, That the Committee of Public Accounts do consist of Fifteen Members.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of—Sir Frederick Banbury, Mr. Blake, Mr. Gibson Bowles, Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Victor Cavendish, Mr. Cohen, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Goddard, Sir Brampton Gurdon, Sir Arthur Hayter, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Sir Robert Mowbray, Mr. Pym, and Mr. Yerburgh.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the quorum.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

NEW BILLS.

NURSES AND PRIVATE NURSING HOMES (REGISTRATION).

Bill to provide for the better training and registration of Nurses and for the voluntary registration of Private Nursing Homes, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Claude Hay, Sir Arthur Bignold, and Mr. H. D. Green.

NURSES AND PRIVATE NURSING HOMES (REGISTRATION) BILL.

"To provide for the better training and registration of Nurses and for the voluntary registration of Private Nursing Homes," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 110.]

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) said he concluded that, as the House had let the Public Accounts Committee pass, it was quite understood that the Prime Minister would give a day for the discussion of the commissariat scandals independently and without waiting for the Committee's Report.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said he wished to ask whether on Wednesday evening the Government intended to give a definite decision—aye or no—on the Resolution of his hon. friend the Member for Argyll. He had asked a similar Question with reference to the Motion of the hon. Member for Oldham, and the Patronage Secretary complained that he had not received notice of it, and could not, therefore, reply. On this occasion, however, he had been given notice; and he trusted the hon. and gallant Gentleman would be able to give a definite and straightforward reply. The Government had three courses open to them. They could leave the question open; and, as it was a private Member's night, and a private Member's Motion, the House of Commons might be permitted to give a decision on the matter. If that course were adopted——

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is now discussing the Motion on the Paper.

MR. SOARES said he would not press the matter further; but he hoped the hon. Gentleman would give a definite reply.

*SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD said that if the hon. Member was in his place on Wednesday he would learn the intentions of the Government.

SOMALILAND.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square) asked the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he had any information regarding an agreement said to have been concluded between the Italian Government and the Mullah, Muhammed Abdullah, and if so whether he could communicate the terms of such agreement to the House.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S): Yes, sir, we have received a telegram from General Swayne informing us that the Mullah has sent a deputation to Berbera to conclude peace.

Adjourned at twenty-five minutes before One o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 21*st March,* 1905.

SAT FIRST.

The Earl of Devon sat first in Parliament after the death of his grandfather.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

DONOVAN'S DIVORCE BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Alice Edith Donovan, the wife of Daniel Augustine Donovan, with the said Daniel Augustine Donovan, and to enable her to marry again, and for other purposes. Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in, and of the Decree of Divorce of, the King's Bench Division (Matrimonial) of the High Court of Justice in Ireland, delivered (on oath); Bill read 1^a.

DONOVAN'S DIVORCE BILL [H.L.].

Petition of Alice Edith Donovan praying that a duly attested copy of the Bill may be transmitted by registered letter to Messrs. Lawrence Jones and Company, of Cape Coast Castle, Solicitors, and that the attendance of a representative of the said Messrs. Lawrence Jones and Company before this House to prove personal service of the copy of the Bill, notice of Second Reading, and of the usual orders of this House on the said Daniel Augustine Donovan may be dispensed with, and that an affidavit of a representative of the said Messrs. Lawrence Jones and Company, carrying on business at Cape Coast Castle, of such personal service sworn before a District Commissioner of the Gold Coast may be deemed to be good and sufficient proof of such service. Presented, and ordered to be taken into consideration on Friday next.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have not been complied with:—Malvern Water.

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE.

Report from, That the Standing Orders not complied with in respect of the petition for additional provision in the Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.]. ought to be dispensed with, and leave given to the Committee on the Bill to insert the additional provision.

Read, and agreed to.

Llandrindod Wells Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^a (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Dearne Valley Railway Bill [H.L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 6th and 7th instant, discharged, and Bill committed.

Marylebone Chapels Bill [H.L.]; Tralee Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan District Railway Bill [H.L.]; Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.]; Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill. Reported, with Amendments.

Entre Rios Railways Bill [H.L.]; Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.]. Reported, without Amendment.

Clyde Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.]; Nine Mile Point Railway Bill [H.L.]; Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Rhymney Railway Bill [H.L.]; Leeds and Liverpool Canal Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Earl of Drogheda be proposed to the House as a member of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Lord Monson; read, and agreed to.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill; to be printed. (No. 33.)

PETITIONS.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of Bradford Trades Unionists; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3329. Servia. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEWCASTLE CHAPTER (AMENDMENT) BILL [H.L.].

Read 3ª (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order).

(The Earl of ONSLOW in the Chair.)

Clause 1.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD moved to add the following sub-sections in Clause 1:—(4) In any prosecution under this Act evidence shall not be admissible to show that any such gift or consideration as is mentioned in this section is customary in any trade or calling; (5) For the purposes of this Act where it is shown that any such gift or consideration as in this section mentioned has been taken, given, or offered without the assent of the principal, the burden of proving that such gift or consideration was not taken, given, or offered corruptly shall lie on the accused.

He explained that this Amendment was not really his own. When the Bill was under consideration in 1904 a question was raised as to the meaning of the word "corruptly" at the commencement of the clause, and which governed the whole clause. It was suggested that there would be a difficulty in construing the word, and on that being pointed out to the Lord Chancellor the noble and learned Lord met the objection by proposing that the word "corruptly" should be defined more strictly by the two sub-sections he (Lord James) now brought forward. The sub-sections provided that in any prosecution under this Act evidence should not be admissible to show that any such gift or consideration as was mentioned in the section was customary in any trade or calling; and also that for the purposes of the Act, where it was shown that any such gift or consideration as in this section mentioned had been taken, given, or offered without the assent of the principal, the burden of proving that such gift or consideration was not taken, given, or offered corruptly should lie on the accused. Those sub-sections which his noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor offered, and which were accepted, controlled the word "corruptly," and he (Lord James) had only copied his noble and learned friend's words in his Amendment. He hoped that in the circumstances the Amendment would be accepted.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 11, after the word 'Act' to insert the paragraphs—

'(4) In any prosecution under this Act evidence shall not be admissible to show that any such gift or consideration as is mentioned in this section is customary in any trade or calling.

'(5) For the purposes of this Act where it is shown that any such gift or consideration as in this section mentioned has been taken, given, or offered without the assent of the principal, the burden of proving that such gift or consideration was not taken, given, or offered corruptly shall lie on the accused.' "—(*Lord James of Hereford.*)

THE LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of HALSBURY): My Lords, I am afraid I must object to the introduction of the sub-sections contained in the Amendment, because I believe it is equal to moving that the Bill be read this day six months. I do not disavow that the object with which these words were designed was a good one, and I should have been glad to give effect to the Amendment, but it cannot be doubted that the sub-sections have created, and are still likely to create, opposition elsewhere. In the interests of the passing of the measure I adopted, with one exception, all the Amendments that the Grand Committee made in the Bill in the House of Commons. I cannot help feeling that if your Lordships were now to reintroduce sub-sections which the Grand Committee struck out, the fate of the Bill would be tolerably certain. I am extremely anxious that the Bill, which has now been brought before Parliament for the third time, should pass, even at the sacrifice of what may be regarded as a more perfect form of words. If it is found in practice hereafter that there is any difficulty owing to the lack of the words suggested by my noble and learned friend it will be possible to try to amend the measure. I do think, in view of the consensus of opinion that some legislation is absolutely necessary on the subject, it being clear that the amount of corruption is increasing day by day, a special effort should be made to pass this measure, even though we cannot adopt what would be regarded as the most perfect form of words. I am not alone in that opinion. I have here two letters which, with your Lordships' permission, I will read. The first is from the Law Society in London, and is as follows—

"My Lord,— The Council of the Law Society observe that Lord James of Hereford has moved Amendments to the Prevention of Corruption Bill, the effect of which appears to be (1) To exclude evidence of custom to rebut a charge of corruption and to relieve the prosecution from the burden of proof of corruption in certain cases; (2) To make unnecessary the Attorney-General's consent to prosecutions.

The Council hope that your Lordship will see your way to oppose these Amendments. There appears to be no special reason why prosecutions under the Act should not be conducted in accordance with the existing law as to evidence. It is impossible to say now that there may not be a case in which evidence of custom would be material, and if such a case should arise it would be unjust that evidence of custom should be excluded. Nothing would tend more to discredit the Act than a conviction obtained owing to the statutory exclusion of material evidence.

The Attorney-General's consent to prosecutions under this Act has been almost universally approved of, and without such protection the interests of the public cannot be protected against malicious and blackmailing proceedings."

That letter is signed by the president. The second letter I have received is from the Incorporated Law Society of Liverpool, and is as follows—

"My Lord,—The Prevention of Corruption Bill has been under consideration by the Committee of the Liverpool Law Society, and as introduced by your Lordship into the House of Lords it has their entire approval.

The attention of the Committee has, however, been called to certain Amendments which it is understood will be moved by Lord James of Hereford, and the effect of which, if adopted, would be—(1) to render evidence of custom in any trade or calling inadmissible in the case of a prosecution under the Act; (2) to throw upon the accused the onus of proving that any gift taken, given, or offered without the assent of the principal was not taken, given, or offered corruptly; and (3) to strike out the clause providing for the Attorney or Solicitor-General's *fiat* being obtained.

The Committee feel very strongly that these Amendments are open to the gravest objection for the following reasons. The effect of the Bill is to create a statutory crime, and as the word "corruptly" governs the offence aimed at by the Bill, evidence of a custom known generally to both principal and agent may often have a vital bearing upon the question of corrupt motive. It would be most unfair to the accused to deprive the Court in which the charge is to be heard from giving such weight as it may think fit to evidence of this character. The payment or receipt of a commission such as was expressly authorised by Section 10 (1) of the National Debt (Conversion) Act, 1888, where it would often be impossible to obtain or produce evidence of the formal assent of the principal, might involve the conviction, followed by fine or imprisonment, of a person perfectly innocent in intent.

The proposed Amendment throwing upon the accused the onus of proving his innocence would, in the opinion of the Committee, destroy the effect of the word "corruptly" in Clause 1 (1). It is of the essence of the Bill that a gift should in the first instance be proved to be corrupt. This is in accordance with the spirit of English law, and grave injustice might result from throwing the onus upon the accused of proving his innocence possibly years after the event, when evidence may be difficult or impossible to obtain. Perhaps the strongest objection to this proposal is that it would give most dangerous facilities to blackmailing charges.

The Committee are strongly of opinion that the provision requiring the *fiat* of the Attorney General or Solicitor-General to the prosecution should be retained. This would be an obviously inadequate provision if the onus were thrown upon the accused of proving his innocence. Even under the Bill as introduced it would only partially safeguard innocent persons against charges which unscrupulous persons would find so easy to make, and which would often be so difficult for an innocent person to rebut.

It must not be forgotten that the mere formulating of a charge is calculated to very seriously injure an innocent person, especially in the case of a professional man, and anything which in any way facilitates blackmailing is strongly to be deprecated.

The Bill as introduced must command the sympathy and approval of all who are desirous of seeing the great evil of secret commissions effectually grappled with. The introduction of such provisions as are indicated in the proposed Amendments are, however, so manifestly unfair that they would not only rouse strenuous opposition to the Bill but would, if the Bill becomes law, go far to destroy the moral effect of the Act. Such an Act, to be effective, must accord with a general sense of justice. If it goes beyond this it is foredoomed to failure.

The Committee therefore trust that the Bill may be allowed to become law without amendment."

That letter is also signed by the president of the society. The views of two such bodies as the Law Society of London and the Law Society of Liverpool must command wide attention, and I believe that if the Amendments standing in the name of the noble and learned Lord, particularly the one with which we are at present concerned, are passed, the Bill will never become law. For these reasons I must resist the Amendment.

LORD AVEBURY said that if he understood the Lord Chancellor correctly he was most distinctly in favour of the Amendment moved by Lord James, but opposed it on the ground that it would probably prevent the Bill from passing into law. He, for one, and, he believed, the commercial community generally, would rather get half a loaf than none at all; but, at the same time, they felt very great doubt as to what the word "corruptly" meant. Suppose an agent, acting for his principal, took a commission, or suppose a housekeeper took a commission from a shopkeeper, in both cases without the knowledge of the principal, would that secret commission be punishable under the clause? If the word "corruptly" would prevent its being punished, so far as they in the City of London were concerned the Bill would have nothing like the good effect which they had hoped it would have. It might be true that two or three years ago the Grand Committee in another place threw out these particular words, but he believed there had been a great advance of opinion among the commercial community since that time, and he could not help feeling that if the words were inserted and the Bill went again before the Grand Committee, there was every prospect that the Grand Committee would allow them to stand. But if the Grand Committee did throw the sections out the House of Lords would have done its best in the matter by inserting them, and the Grand Committee of the other House would have to take the responsibility of their omission. Therefore, so far as he was concerned, he would have been glad it the noble and learned Lord could have seen his way to accept the Amendment.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD wished to explain that the Law Societies should have turned their wrath, not on himself, but on the Lord Chancellor, for the subsections in the Amendment were not his. They were drawn up by the Lord Chancellor in order to get rid of the difficulties which everyone foresaw would arise, and were accepted last year as a solution of a very great difficulty. But the Bill of 1903 did not contain these sub-sections; it went to the Standing Committee without them. Last year the Bill went down to the other House with the sub-sections in it, but never went before the Standing Committee. He thought the noble and learned Lord would find, on investigation, that the sub-sections had never been struck out by the Committee of the other House at all. He differed from the Lord Chancellor in thinking that the insertion of these sub-sections would prevent the Bill passing through the other House. His own view was that they would facilitate the passage of the Bill; but, in the circumstances, he would not press his Amendment.

THE EARL OF HALSBURY: I am much obliged to my noble and learned friend for what he has said. I only rise to put myself right with your Lordships. I have not had the opportunity of verifying what I said a year ago, but I think it is hardly likely I should have made the mistake he suggests. I find that a year ago I said—

"Your Lordships are familiar with the provisions of this Bill. I have taken means to ascertain the reception which the Bill met with in the House of Commons, and I have accepted, with one exception, the Amendments which were made in Grand Committee."

I have not verified that statement since, but I can hardly believe I was mistaken in making it.

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD said the would hand a copy of the Bill in question to his noble and learned friend, who would see that it did not contain the sub-sections the insertion of which he now moved as an Amendment.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee withdrawn.

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2:

*LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD moved to omit Sub-section 1 of Clause 2, which provided that a prosecution for an offence under this Act shall not be instituted without the consent of the Attorney-General or Solicitor-General. He hoped the House would realise what that provision meant. However slight the offence, a person wishing to proceed under the Bill and prosecute, say, his domestic servant or agent where a small commission had been received, would be unable to proceed without the *fiat* of the Attorney-General. First of all affidavits would have to be obtained; those affidavits would have to be drawn up by a solicitor; the solicitor would then have to instruct his London agent, who, in turn, would proceed to the Attorney-General's chambers and submit them to the Attorney-General. He thought it extremely unfair to all parties that this obstacle to instituting proceedings should be inserted. The charge would be made on *ex parte* affidavits. There was no appearance of the accused before the Attorney-General. This provision would act as a great deterrent to any prosecution unless the amount involved was a large and serious one. Every subject in this country had a right to make an application to a magistrate, and having done so to prefer a bill of indictment to a Grand Jury. Why should this right be taken way under this Bill?

His noble and learned friend the Lord Chancellor had said that blackmailing was likely to take place if they did not have such a provision. They had had recent legislation on many matters in connection with which blackmailing undoubtedly went on, but the *fiat* of the Attorney-General had not been introduced. He ventured to think that this provision would lead to an increase of blackmailing, for a prosecutor could go to the Attorney-General, and, on an *ex parte* statement, get a *fiat*. He would then be able to shake it in the face of the person accused and say: "I have got the Attorney-General's *fiat* and have you in my power. If I tell the magistrates I have got the Attorney-General's *fiat* they will think that it is a charge of great importance." He would be able to say that the matter rested in his hands, because he could stop the case if it was made worth his while. The Attorney-General's *fiat* would be one of the greatest instruments in the hands of the blackmailer. The Lord Chancellor had said that the subsections contained in the Amendment he (Lord James of Hereford) had moved to Clause 1 had been rejected in the House of Commons, and that if they were inserted now the Bill would be thrown out; but he would point out that this clause providing for the *fiat* of the Attorney-General went down to the House of Commons in 1903, and was submitted to the Standing Committee on Law, and, though supported by the full power of the Government and the Attorney-General, was rejected on the Motion of a Unionist Member, the Motion being supported by nine members of the Bar, including such men as Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Sir Robert Reid, Mr. Lawson Walton, and others. The clause was struck out in the Standing Committee. Last year the Bill went down again with the clause in it, and the intimation was given to those who introduced the Bill that if they persisted in that clause the Bill could not proceed, and he was informed that it was in consequence of the Attorney-General's *fiat* being retained that the Bill was never proceeded with. He assured the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack that he would never secure the passage of the Bill through the House of Commons if he persisted in this clause. He did not think anything had happened since 1903 to make the Attorney-General's *fiat* more popular with the House of Commons. Last year, when this matter was discussed in the Standing Committee of their Lordships' House, the Lord Chancellor referred personally to Lord Avebury, and asked him what the commercial world thought of it. Lord Avebury informed the Lord Chancellor that the commercial world were all against this clause, and the Lord Chancellor said he would try and find some equivalent. He (Lord James) regretted that this year an equivalent had not been found.

Amendment moved—

"To leave out sub-section (1) of Clause 2."—(*Lord James of Hereford.*)

LORD AVEBURY said they were so much indebted to the Lord Chancellor for again introducing the Bill this year that he would be very sorry to do anything to impede its passage into law; but he could not help feeling that if the noble and learned Lord had seen his way to accept the Amendment moved by Lord James of Hereford the Bill would be much more useful. This was not so much a question of law as one of practice. The bankers were at first disposed to think that the introduction of the Attorney-General's *fiat* might prevent some cases of blackmail, but on further consideration they came to the conclusion that the fears of blackmailing had been very much exaggerated, and that it would probably be found there was very little need for apprehension on that score. On the other hand, considering the great number of small cases, it did seem that the introduction of the Attorney-General's *fiat* would prevent the Bill coming into operation in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred. When they came to great cases, such as that of Whitaker Wright, no doubt the intervention of the Attorney-General was quite right and proper; but what they had hoped was that this Bill would lead to an immense number of small frauds being dealt with, but that could hardly be accomplished if the machinery was made so complex, difficult, and expensive as it would be under the clause as it stood. They could not help thinking that the Bill would be much more useful if the provision was omitted. Take, for instance, the case of the acceptance of secret commissions by servants. Was it really to be suggested that the Attorney-General would look into cases of that kind? If he did not look into them, but gave his *fiat* for a trial without investigation, then, indeed, a great scope for blackmailing was opened up. Then there was the question of custom. He was afraid that secret commissions had, in some trades, almost become a custom, and it was because they wished to strike a blow at, and eradicate that custom, that they wished to see this Bill come into operation. Therefore, he hoped the noble and learned Lord would see his way to accept the Amendment; but, if he did not, they would rather take the Bill as it stood than not get it at all.

The LORD CHANCELLOR: I am extremely sorry I am unable to accept the Amendment. After serious consideration, extending over a number of years, I cannot consent to give up the protection which I feel to be absolutely necessary for the public against blackmailing. My noble and learned friend talked of the right of the public to present a bill of indictment. Neither Scotland nor Ireland knows anything about private prosecutions. There they must be conducted by officers of the law, and so great was the scandal arising in England from the power of presenting indictments to Grand Juries that an Act of Parliament was passed, when I was young at the Bar, prohibiting people presenting an indictment before a Grand Jury without a preliminary inquiry before a magistrate. My noble and learned friend has been Attorney-General himself, and has had a very distinguished career as Attorney-General, and I cannot understand why he should distrust the Attorney-General so much. I do not suppose any Attorney-General would give his *fiat* for a prosecution without seeing the parties. He would not give leave to prosecute without any inquiry into the matter. Therefore, I think that part of my noble friend's observations may be dismissed. When I was Solicitor-General I was frequently called upon to give a *fiat* in certain cases, but I never considered that my duty was done until I had fully inquired into each case. I think the last place a person, who wanted to get a prosecution simply in order to solicit blackmail, would go to, would be the Attorney-General's chambers. The danger of blackmail is a real one, and one which ought to be provided against. I did say I would try and find some substitute for this provision. I have given a great deal of thought to the matter, and can find no substitute for the Attorney-General's *fiat* Therefore, I am afraid, I must adhere to the clause.

LORD DAVEY was sorry to hear the decision at which the Lord Chancellor had arrived. Though not an absolute novelty, the provision in question was not to be found in the case of other offences which equally lent themselves to blackmail. Blackmail might exist wherever a person had it in his power to charge another with any criminal offence, but they had not found it necessary to provide that no prosecution should be commenced in such cases without the *fiat* of the Attorney-General. He did not know of any case, except that of the Corrupt Practices Act, where such a *fiat* was required in order to commence a prosecution. The Lord Chancellor had said that the subsections which Lord James of Hereford wished to introduce in Clause 1 had been struck out by the Grand Committee of the House of Commons, and that was used as a strong argument for not insisting on the insertion of the sub-sections in the present Bill. But it had been pointed out by his noble and learned friend, in moving the present Amendment, that this clause requiring the consent of the Attorney-General had also been before the House of Commons in two successive sessions, had been carefully considered in the Standing Committee on Law, and had been struck out. The majority of the lawyers in the House of Commons were opposed to the clause. He did not think any necessity had been shown for introducing it into the Bill, and he anticipated that if the Bill went down to the House of Commons with this clause in it, it would be again struck out.

LORD JAMES OF HEREFORD pointed out that there was no precedent for setting up the *fiat* of the Attorney-General in regard to cases before magistrates sitting in petty sessions, who could only impose sentences of summary conviction. That was a perfect innovation in law, and would constitute a great obstacle to the working of this Bill.

Amendment, by leave of the Committee, withdrawn.

Clause 2 agreed to.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Clause 4:

*LORD MUSKERRY said that when this Bill was before their Lordships last year he drew the attention of the Lord Chancellor to the fact that the instructions of many shipowners to their captains were not that they were not to take commissions, but that any commissions they received were to be handed over to the managing owners, and a few days afterwards the noble and learned Lord brought in an Amendment to meet that evil. Another point had since arisen which he could best put before their Lordships by quoting a case which had occurred recently. A captain in the service of Messrs. Leylands, of Liverpool, came to grief with his spars in bad weather and had to put into Los Angeles. The junior owner, Mr. Winter, found fault with the captain for too much expenditure in the repairs, and told him he was to go, he having signed an agreement that his employment should be terminable with seven days' notice. When he asked for the money that was due to him the captain was told that he must go back to Liverpool for it. He was stranded and had to borrow money to return to Liverpool. When he reached that port he went to the office and asked for his money. He was told that he could not have it, and must wait till they communicated with the captain who had replaced him. The result was that a writ was issued, and Messrs. Leylands applied before a Judge in Chambers to have the case adjourned until they could communicate with the captain who was then on the ship. The Judge refused, stating that everything was perfectly clear. He treated the case as a hearing in Court and gave a verdict for the plaintiff with costs. What he wished to draw their Lordships' attention to was this, that it was a habit among shipowners when captains were dismissed to refuse to settle and keep them hanging on until finally the captain, coming near starvation point, had to accept a moiety of what was due to him. He did not think the money saved in that way went into the pockets of the shareholders, but into the pocket of the managing owner. He stated this case in the hope that some Member of their Lordships' House would, on the Third Reading of the Bill, bring forward an Amendment which would meet it.

Clause 4 agreed to.

Bill reported without Amendment, and re-committed to the Standing Committee.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT (1882) AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]; PRIZE COURTS BILL [H.L.]; NAVAL PRIZE BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order); Bills reported without Amendment; and recommitted to the Standing Committee.

THE CASE OF THE S.S "BARON INNERDALE."

*LORD MUSKERRY: My Lords, I rise to ask His Majesty's Government whether they have lodged any claim for pecuniary compensation for the families of the captain, officers, and other members of the crew of the British steamer "Baron Innerdale," who, after the stranding of that vessel, were treacherously murdered within the domains of the Sultan of Muscat; and, if not, whether, in justice to the relatives of the murdered men, and for the protection of the crews of British ships, they will take into consideration the advisability of laying such a claim. I understand that there may be difficulties in the way of getting compensation. What I would suggest is that if it is not thought advisable or if it would be too expensive for His Majesty's Government to obtain satisfaction from the potentate in whose domains these British subjects were murdered, His Majesty's Government might themselves consider whether they could not make some grant to assist the relatives of these murdered sailors.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (The Marquess of BATH): My Lords, the facts with regard to this case are as follows:—On August 2nd the steamship, "Baron Innerdale," stranded near Kuria Muria Island. On August 6th—four days later—the captain and officers and a large number of the crew left the ship in two lifeboats, and about eleven days after that a passing steamer, the s.s. "Prome," rescued the remainder of the crew who had stayed on board. Of the two lifeboats that put away from the stranded vessel one has never been heard of. With regard to the other one, rumours reached the Government of India that her crew had been massacred somewhere on the coast, and after considerable difficulty the scene of the outrage was identified, the Sultan of Muscat affording every facility and himself proceeding to the scene of the murder. The result of the inquiries which were made and of the assistance which the ruler afforded us was, shortly, that the ringleader and nine of the murderers were executed on the scene of the murder. A number of other members of the guilty tribes, whose complicity in the murder was proved, are imprisoned at Muscat. The local sheikh has been removed, and the Sultan of Muscat has undertaken, with a view to preventing a repetition of similar outrages, to keep a guard of Muscat troops on the island during the south-west monsoon. The question of compensation about which the noble Lord asks me a question, was, I need not assure your Lordships, carefully considered by the Secretary of State in consultation with his advisers and with the authorities on the spot, and I regret to say that it was found impracticable to recover any appreciable amount from the tribes concerned. Some of them were too poor to pay anything, and others were in such a position of inaccessibility that it would have taken a considerable expedition to recover the sum. On the other hand, my Lords, in view of the goodwill which he had shown and of his prompt and energetic action in helping us to discover and punish the murderers, it was not felt advisable to press the Sultan of Muscat on this matter. I might add that while we know from traces that were discovered that one boat's crew were murdered, we have no intelligence of the fate of the other, which I am afraid must have perished. We also have no knowledge as to which crew it was which was murdered, and it would be impossible, under those circumstances, to allocate any sums even if we were able to get them.

THE NAVY AND THE ADMIRALTY.

*EARL SPENCER, in rising "to call attention to the statements of the First Lord of the Admiralty of December 6th, 1904, and February 14th, 1905, and to move for Papers," said: My Lords, in making the remarks of which I have given notice, I think I may claim for myself that never at any time, whether in office at the Admiralty or since, in the House or out of it, have I discussed naval matters in a personal or Party sense. In former days the conduct of business at the Admiralty was occasionally actuated by Party motives, but I am glad to say that of late years this has not been the case. What we aim at to-day at the Admiralty is to do our utmost to secure the sufficiency and efficiency of the Navy, to enable them to fulfil their heavy responsibilities to the nation, to preserve the commerce of the nation, the country itself, and its great dependencies all over the world.

The noble Earl, who may to-day address the House probably for the last time as First Lord of the Admiralty, in his Statement accompanying the Estimates of the year informs us that the Estimates for the year 1905–6 amount to £33,389,000 as compared with £36,889,000 last year; that is coming down £3,500,000. I cannot help, in looking at these Estimates, referring to those of previous years. I will divide the years with which I propose to deal into three periods. First there is the period when I was First Lord of the Admiralty; next the period when Viscount Goschen succeeded me; and thirdly, the term of office of the noble Earl who has just resigned. The figures with regard to these three periods are very striking. When I went to the Admiralty the number of men, boys, and Marines in the Navy was 74,100. In the second period the number was 83,400. In 1901–2, when the noble Earl succeeded to office, the number was 118,635. Last year the number was 131,100. Ot course this large increase in men is a necessary consequence of the increase in the number of ships in commission which have to be manned by sailors and Marines; and coming to shipbuilding we find these increases: first period, £4,771,000; second period, £6,986,000; and third period, £14,976,000. During the term of office of Viscount Goschen he explained that the large increase which he proposed was in consequence of the action of Russia in advancing beyond her usual annual grant for new shipbuilding by something like £10,000,000. The noble Viscount made the very statesmanlike offer that if the other Powers would come to terms as to the increase of their respective navies he would not ask for the increase which he then proposed. But, as we all know, that offer was refused, and this very large increase had to be made.

Altogether the increase in the Navy Estimates up to the present comes to more than double the total Estimates of 1894–5. That is really a stupendous increase, and I think we should have some explanation of it. I am not condemning it, because I have always felt that those who are not in office, and therefore do not know the facts, take upon themselves a great responsibility in condemning the Government for doing what they think necessary for the stability of the Empire and the efficiency of the Navy. What I do say is that we have not had a sufficient explanation of this enormous increase in naval expenditure. The duties which fall upon the Navy have been clearly and succinctly explained in a passage from the Report of the Royal Commission on Coaling Stations presided over by Lord Carnarvon. It says—

> "The Royal Navy is not maintained for the purpose of affording direct local protection to seaports or harbours, but for the object of blockading the ports of an enemy, of destroying his trade, attacking his possessions, dealing with his ships at sea, and, we may add, of preventing an attack in great force against any special place. It is by the efficient performance of these duties that our commerce and Colonies will be best protected. Our seaports must rely for their immediate defence on local means, leaving Your Majesty's Navy free to act at sea."

There have been in recent years various standards of the naval strength which was thought necessary to carry out these duties. First of all there was the standard of the Naval Defence Act, when Lord George Hamilton was First Lord. It was then laid down that the annual cost of new construction should be £2,300,000. That represented what we may call the waste of the Navy. The depreciation now amounts to over £4,026,878; this increase does not depend simply on the increased number of ships, but on the capital value of the ships, which has now very largely increased. We find that ships live only a certain number of years; that after those years they become obsolete or of very little use, and have to be replaced by the most efficient and modern type of vessel. But it is necessary that we should know not only the proper standard of the efficiency and sufficiency of the Navy, but the amount of depreciation and waste which must be made up for every year by building new ships.

We have now what is called the two-Power standard. That standard was originally invented, I believe, by a great statesman who is now, in regard to an entirely different matter, greatly praised on one side and attacked on the other—Mr. Cobden. It did very well for a certain time; but I venture to say that at the present moment our naval force exceeds immensely the two-Power standard. I dislike bringing other Powers into this matter, but it is well known that the two-Power standard has always applied to France and Russia. One of these Powers, as we all know, has met with the greatest possible disasters. It is difficult to ascertain the full extent of Russia's enormous losses in the war with Japan, but I think I am under the mark when I say that she has lost five battleships and five cruisers. Therefore, the two-Power standard has broken down. Besides, it must not be forgotten that in a great war we may have the ships of another Power on our side helping us.

I ask, therefore, whether it is not within the competence of the able administrators of the Admiralty to tell us what force in battleships and cruisers we now require to strike a severe blow on the fleets of an enemy wherever they may be, and also to carry out the duties of the Navy as laid down by Lord Carnarvon's Commission. No doubt we require a much larger number of cruisers, independently of fleets of battleships, than other nations; but I believe at this moment we have an enormous number of vessels, both battleships and cruisers—owing to the policy which has lately been carried out—which will be able to perform the work which we think is the duty of the Navy in the event of war. I do not feel in a position to condemn the Government, but I think we want more explanation as to why this enormous increase has been made. I should also like to hear that we now have an ample supply both of battleships and cruisers to do the great work which is thrown on the Navy.

Earl Spencer.

I will now come to the new policy which has been initiated in two Statements, one issued in December, and the other quite lately, by the noble Earl the First Lord of the Admiralty. I propose to refer to two points principally in those Statements. The first is the removal from the list of active ships of a certain number of vessels, and the second the diminution of the forces of defence and the means for carrying out dockyard work at the naval bases or coaling stations, which is not so clearly defined, but is referred to in both of these statements. With regard to the first point, I must refer to the speech made in Glasgow on 13th January by the Prime Minister. Part of that speech I entirely endorse, but part of it, I think, gives a somewhat exaggerated view of what has been done. The Prime Minister said—

> "At first sight perhaps, a critic looking over the figures might say, 'What has this Government been doing?' They have abolished 130 vessels—my figures are not exact, I speak from memory—130 vessels which figured upon the list of the British Navy. They have in so doing made an economy; they have not weakened the Navy in the process for the mere sake of saving so many hundreds of thousands or millions a year; they have not sacrificed the strength of the force on which the very being of this country depends."

I do not at all object to such an interpretation of what has been done. At this point in the right hon. Gentleman's speech a member of the audience observed: "Good riddance of bad rubbish," and Mr. Balfour proceeded—

> "That brief interruption puts even more concisely and pithily than I can do one of this aspects, but only one of the aspects, of the great reform. It is not merely that the Board of Admiralty has laid down the rule that a ship however useful in time of peace—and we have to do, it must be admitted, a great deal of small police work in a time of peace for diplomatic or other purposes—is not only useless, but worse than useless, in time of war if it possesses neither fighting power nor speed; it is merely a ship which exists to embarrass British Admirals and to discredit the British flag. Well, with one courageous stroke of the pen, as it were, these ships have been removed. The cost of their maintenance, the cost of their repairs—I will not give you the figure to which it comes, it is a very big one—are all struck off the annual Estimates."

I agree with the general principle. The proposal is that we must not cumber the seas in time of peace with ships that are no use in time of war. Presently I will refer again to the question of the diminution of cost. I think that the Prime Minister rather exaggerates what this actual change, at the present moment at all events, has effected. There is a matter about which I should like to ask a question. We have had two Returns—one of ships which have been struck off, and another of ships which remain on the active list. But on these lists the names of sixteen vessels are repeated.

THE FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY (The Earl of SELBORNE): I will explain that at once. The words "non-effective" in the Return are Mr. Robertson's words. I do not admit that these ships are non-effective. Mr. Robertson wished to have included in the Return ships treated in a different manner than they have hitherto been treated. Therefore we included all the ships that have been reclassified and are being treated in a different manner. The consequence is that some of them appear in both Returns, the Return headed "non-effective ships," according to Mr. Robertson's expression, including a considerable number of ships which have very real value for secondary purposes in war.

*EARL SPENCER: I am obliged to the noble Lord for the information. I will return to that question again in a moment. There are three classes of ships. The intermediate class has been wittily described as the llama class, being the class between the sheep and goats. As far as I hear, many people who understand the subject believe that this unfortunate llama class will deteriorate very rapidly, and the llamas be transformed into goats. Then there are some ships on the first Return on which very considerable sums have been spent within the last few years. The "Collingwood," I believe, appeared in the Estimates for over £20,000. That vessel now becomes a vessel of the llama class.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: What was the date of that expenditure on the "Collingwood?"

*EARL SPENCER: I think it was in the Estimates of last year. There is a large sum put down to the "Naiad," some £38,000, and to the "Pallas," £7,200. There are considerable sums for other vessels. Whether these sums have been spent I cannot say, but they have been put down in the Estimates. Undoubtedly very large sums of money have been spent on ships that have been put among the llamas or goats. It rather surprises me that the Government should have so recently laid out, or estimated to lay out, very considerable sums on these ships, and should now condemn the vessels as useless; that seems to me almost a condemnation of their own policy. There are a great many of these ships that are of light draught and even now might be extremely useful for certain purposes. There are a great many places both in the East and in Africa where large ships, even large cruisers, cannot approach the shore. I shall be glad to hear whether the Admiralty calculate that they have in the ships that are left an ample number of vessels of small draught to do the duties which require to be done in places where vessels of larger draught cannot go.

There is another point. We all know that every fleet of battleships must have a certain proportion of cruisers. The efficiency and power of a fleet depend on having a sufficient number of the very best cruisers; they are the eyes of the fleet. I am not sufficiently a tactician to know whether the redistribution proposed is good. I notice that there are to be a number of affiliated squadrons of cruisers. These squadrons are to do certain peace duties and show the flag in various parts of the world. Anyone who has been at the Admiralty knows how large a demand there is for this sort of ship. The Foreign Office invariably wants ships of this sort here, there, and everywhere, and it is often with the greatest difficulty that the Admiralty can find ships commensurate with these demands. I quite believe in the policy of not having a single ship in peace which is not useful in war, but I wonder whether the Admiralty have sufficiently considered this matter. Suppose a demonstration is necessary in a certain part of the world, and suppose the cruiser squadron belonging to the Atlantic Fleet is sent on this service. Of course I shall be told that by means of telegraphs or wireless telegraphy you can immediately get back these cruisers in the event of an emergency arising, but I maintain that for the moment, while they are away, the fleet which is dependent upon them for scouting will be much weaker than it ought to be. It is possible, of course, that my fears are unnecessary, and that the great fleet of battleships will never be without these cruisers, and if the noble Earl says so then there is an answer to my question.

I quite understand the excellence of these general proposals. I hope your Lordships will not think that I am trying to get credit for the Board over which I presided, because I do not wish to do so for that more than for any other Board; but what has happened now is that the work which has been done for the last fifteen or sixteen years at the Admiralty, work begun before my time, in increasing the number of ships and of men, has enabled and required this great change in the whole policy of the distribution of the Fleet. Therefore I congratulate the noble Earl and the able Board who act with him on having taken this opportunity of revising all these arrangements. I entirely approve of the general principle on which the revision has proceeded.

I come to another point, to which I attach great importance, that of coaling stations and naval bases. We ought to have a full discussion of that subject, because the present position of those stations and bases is not a sudden creation, but is the outcome of the very able and important Report of the Royal Commission over which Lord Carnarvon presided. That Report declared that it was not merely important to secure the fighting power of the Navy, but you must also secure that all over the world there shall be coaling stations, without which the power of the Navy would remain entirely useless. I am only asking for information. The Admiralty may be perfectly right in their policy. As far as I know the great change in these stations has been made in the West Indies—at Halifax, St. Lucia, Antigua, and Jamaica. The noble Earl in one of his Papers says that the dockyards in all those places are to be reduced to a *cadre*. I must say that I have always objected to the use of a French word where an English word would do, and I should like to know what the word *cadre* means in this case. I see it means in a military sense "a staff," in a naval sense, "a cot"; it is rather, I presume, intended to mean a skeleton. But in regard to St. Lucia I am told that enormous sums have been spent in past years not in the Naval but in the Army Votes. Then again, the importance of Jamaica was dwelt upon by Lord Carnarvon's Commission as the centre of British interests in the West Indies and as being the nearest British territory to the Panama Canal. Considering the great importance and value of the Report of this Commission, we ought to know from the Admiralty why they are altering their policy in respect to coaling stations.

Earl Spencer.

I am glad that the Admiralty are satisfied with regard to the number of the reserves. It is of great moment to have a sufficient number of reserve men, for that is the true way of relieving the large number required of the more costly but highly efficient body of men on the active list. I see that there is a very considerable increase on the Estimates this year for the Royal reserve of merchant cruisers. I hope the noble Earl will explain this, and it may be a condition of the contracts that a larger sum should be paid at one period than at another, but I confess that I always look with some suspicion at this Vote, for, in my opinion, though it is very important to have these greyhounds of the ocean, in war we should be able to get them always when we want them without having a very heavy charge made on the annual Vote for the Navy. In my day the sum was about £60,000, but now-a-days it has grown very much larger owing to exceptional circumstances and the contracts you have made with the great Cunard Company. Those contracts were entered into in order to secure the fastest possible ships to meet certain fast ships that might be employed in time of war in attacking our commerce. I have always felt considerable doubt whether this enormous expenditure was justified. I am told that it is justified in this way, that the sum the Government have paid will not nearly meet the cost of the ships, and that we shall get two ships that will be unrivalled in case of war.

My Lords, I thank you for having listened to me with such patience and courtesy. I feel that it is important to get the voice of the First Lord, whom I wish we might have longer in the position which he has so ably filled for the last three years. As it is, I think he is still First Lord, for I know how long it takes to carry out the formalities of a change of office; but in any case I think it is only fair that he should have an opportunity of answering some of the criticisms that I have made—made, as I hope he will think, in no hostile or Party spirit. I beg to move for Papers.

Moved, for Returns showing (1) numbers of nucleus crews at present borne in each battleship, cruiser, and torpedo vessel of the Fleet in commission and reserve; number of crew when complete for war in each ship; number of special ratings now actually borne and when complete for war. (2) Amounts actually expended in current financial year out of the amounts shown in the Navy Estimates for 1904–5 as to be expended on repairs and refits for the "Collingwood," "Pallas," and other ships since struck off the effective list.—(*Earl Spencer.*)

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: My Lords, before the First Lord of the Admiralty replies it may be convenient that I should offer what remarks I have to make on the naval situation, so that my noble friend may have the opportunity of having the last word. The noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition has asked what are the causes of the great increase in expenditure on the Navy. It is important that that Question should not only be answered in this House, but should be properly apprehended by the nation at large. I think the nation does understand, but still it may be expedient from time to time to remind the public of what it is getting for its money and of the necessity for the expenditure of that money. Why is that expenditure bound to increase? Look at the changes that have occurred in Europe during the last fifteen years; look at the changes in the balance of power; look at the new navies springing up in the Far East and in the Far West, across the Atlantic and across the Pacific; and look nearer at hand at the new naval Power in Europe itself. The two-Power standard is gone. It is no longer applicable to the state of Europe.

The noble Lord asks whether the Admiralty can state precisely what they want, and why these changes in the policy of successive Boards of Admiralty have been made. They have been largely brought about by changes in the naval policy of other countries. As long as changes continue in the balance of naval power and in the fleets of other countries it is impossible for the Admiralty to lay down any fixed standard. The noble Lord asks why it is necessary for us to maintain such a naval force as the present. I wish to be thoroughly understood. The whole situation of neutrals to the great naval Powers has changed during the last fifteen years. So long as there were a very few naval Powers, you could say that a two-Power standard was sufficient. The other Powers had such insignificant navies that, to a certain extent, they could be left out of account, in consideration of the fact that one Power, with the same number of ships as two other Powers, must have a great advantage over them in the possession of a single purpose and directing will.

But if there is one thing which has come out strongly during the course of the Boer War and during the present war, it is the fact that difficulties may arise continually with neutrals through the exercise of the usages and privileges of war. What would happen if, when we were locked in a deadly struggle with two, or perhaps three, Powers, some unfriendly neutral were to threaten to cast his sword on one side or the other, and we were not able to make such dispositions as would be sufficient to meet the threat? In calculating your naval force you must look now not simply to two Powers, and not only to the European antagonists whom you may have in direct conflict, but to the means of asserting and maintaining your attitude in regard to neutrals. It is always a delicate question to discuss these matters of semi-naval and semi-foreign policy; but other Powers do it. Count von Bülow is occasionally very candid, and I do not think there can be any harm in discussing the question in the most friendly manner. When there is a Power with twelve battleships ready in commission within a few hundred miles of your coasts, that is a factor that has to be considered side by side with your preparations to meet any two Powers.

If the noble Earl returns to the Admiralty, he will be impressed with the fact that these are not times to look back to the smaller naval force that we once thought sufficient. The situation must be faced, and we must maintain as strong a Navy as the changed circumstances demand, especially having regard to the accepted attitude to the Army. The responsibility of a reduction of the Army has been undertaken, and, therefore, it is all the more necessary that the proposals made by the Admiralty should have the full support of the country and of both Parties. Another reason for the vast increase in naval expenditure is to be found in the changes which have taken place in the nature of armour and guns and ammunition and all the accessories of the Navy. Those changes make it extraordinarily difficult to lay down a standard. What is the part to be played by submarines and torpedoes, and, above all, by torpedo-boat destroyers in any naval war? The advent of the destroyer has made a considerable change in the whole situation; and the number of destroyers attached to a fleet may to a certain extent remove the necessity for so many cruisers being attached. The destroyers may be used as scouts and for considerable duties outside the primary duty.

All these circumstances have created such a change in naval warfare that ships which were excellent before are now considered nearly useless; and the whole expenditure has to be differently distributed. A vast expense is being incurred—and rightly incurred—by having torpedo flotillas all round the coast; and great credit is due to the present Board for the attention which they have given to the less sensational item of accessories, such as hospital ships, water ships, and repairing ships. If the expenditure on the Navy were submitted to any fair-minded body of men they must say that it has been justified by the extraordinary changes that have taken place.

As to the great number of ships that have been struck off the list, I agree that the policy is a wise one; but I am not sure whether it has not been carried out in a too sensational and slap-dash manner. It is a tremendous thing to have struck off at one stroke all these ships. Probably individual attention has not been given to any one ship, but they have been considered in classes. The Admiralty has determined how each class should be dealt with. I was interested in the remarks of the Prime Minister on this subject which were read to us by the noble Earl, and in the interjection of "old rubbish." Many of these ships have been fine ships in their day. The rubbish of one day has been the glory of another; and it is melancholy to reflect that vessels that have been the pride and darling of their period come to be laid on one side as useless in this way.

I think that, on the whole, the Prime Minister was rather extravagant in the statement that he made. It appears from the reckoning of the Prime Minister as if the sum of £3,500,000 had been made through administrative changes. There are two ways of effecting economies, and your Lordships will know the difficulties in each case. There is the difficulty of change in administration, of economising in administration, and the difficulty of economising in purchasing. If your Lordships look at your own household expenditure and the management of your estates with a wish to economise, you will find an extraordinary difficulty, and your stewards and bailiffs who can effect an economy deserve the greatest gratitude and consideration. But there is another way to economise which is much easier, that is to say, not to buy so many pictures or so many horses. You can do that with a stroke of the pen. So in the administration of the Navy. You can economise in two ways—by means of the dockyards, by cutting off all unnecessary expenses and seeing that there is no waste of labour, that there are not too many to do the same amount of work, and by lopping off branches where no good results are obtained. You can say, "I will not lay down so many ships, and I will cut off so much of the shipbuilding programme." My noble friend out of £3,500,000 economised this year, obtains £2,200,000 by the simple process of cutting down the new construction of ships, and by that amount the progress and power of the country is weakened.

I do not say whether it ought to be done or not, but no credit except that of a change of policy is taken. It is not in administration; you lay down so many of your ships and you do not push forward the ships you have. Now out of £3,500,000, £2,200,000 are due to the new construction. One battleship only is to be laid down this year. I am far from holding the view of my noble friend opposite that we are too strong. If I had any doubts at all, I should be inclined to doubt whether one battleship is sufficient. I should like to know what the programmes of other nations are. There is this difference in the shipbuilding of foreign countries. They build for each other. Russia orders her ships in France and in the United States, and in the United States, at all events, they can build as quickly as we can. Though Russia has lost a certain number of ships, it is not a question of finding shipbuilding resources in her own country to replace them. She can give an order to great establishments elsewhere for the renewal of her navy. In fact, now it seems that for some Powers credit really stands where formerly you had to have docks and shipbuilding appliances to a large extent. These are questions, therefore, to be borne in mind in the course of forming your programme. I do not say that the programme is insufficient, because my noble friend knows the progress made better than I do. But I doubt whether it is sufficient in view of the arrest of a decided and vigorous new construction of our ships.

I wish to touch on one other point. Why have the changes been made in the distribution of business at headquarters at the Admiralty? I see that this moveement has given rise to a great deal of comment. In general, I think it is a pity to touch any such distribution of business and duties unless it is absolutely necessary. But I concur in the First Sea Lord having been relieved of a great deal of the detail which formerly was his share. It is a good thing to relieve him and to give him more time for the larger questions that ought mainly to occupy his mind. But all that might have been done without a change in the distribution of work. Speaking from my own experience, I can say that personally I never gave much attention to the paper distribution of duties. I have seen in offices how laborious was the care shown to set out the work in parallel columns assigning duties to this man and to that, and avoiding overlapping; but the real point of importance lies in the quality and in the temperament of the various men. It was these qualities which decided who got the work. If you have men determined to push their own views, who are more industrious, who have more ideas, you may tie them down and say that these are not their duties, but their influence will be felt in any administration. It would be a disaster if by any changes that general, common action of the Board should be in any way infringed upon. The success of the various Admiralties has been attained through co-ordination, through the various men in the administration sinking their own individualities, at all events before the public, so that their common action should represent the Board. I hope that my noble friend the First Lord of the Admiralty will carry to the new office to which he has been called all that ability, straightforwardness, and industry which have so distinguished him at the post which he is about to leave; and I say this most earnestly, not only as a friend, but as a predecessor of the noble Earl.

The Earl of SELBORNE: My Lords, I am greatly obliged to my noble friend who has just sat down for the kindness of his concluding words. I recognise very fully the absolute truth of what the Leader of the Opposition said. He has never treated naval policy in this House as a Party question. Indeed, I have nothing but gratitude for the spirit in which the Opposition, as well as my own side of the House, have always approached naval questions since I have been First Lord; and I am sure that it is wholly for the good of the country that the Navy and naval policy should be removed absolutely from the arena of Party contention. What my noble friend who has just sat down said about the source of the reduction of three and a half millions in this year's Estimate si sabsolutely true. Two millions and a fraction are due to policy, shipbuilding policy, and the balance is to be credited to administration. The reason why there is a reduction on the Shipbuilding Vote is that, as I explained in my Memorandum, the liability at the present moment for ships now under construction is less than was the liability on the ships under construction a year ago. That means that there are so many tons less shipping at the present moment under construction than there were twelve months ago. It does not mean that we are bringing in any delay in the completion of ships now under construction. On the contrary, the whole of our efforts have been constantly to increase the rapidity of the construction both in the dockyards and in the private yards.

The noble Viscount asked whether the programme of ships to be laid down in the coming financial year, which I admit is a small one, had been drawn up with a full knowledge of the programmes of foreign Powers. Yes, that is the case. Although there are rumours, many of which have appeared in the Press, there is no information at present of a definite fresh programme not included in the Dilke Return on the part of any foreign Power —no fresh programme of battleships. I do not say that in the year that lies before us information may not accrue which is not now available, but at the present moment there is no definite information that I could give to Parliament which I could reckon as in any sense certain and accurate of a new programme on the part of other naval Powers.

The noble Earl the Leader of the Opposition asked me why has there been this great increase in naval expenditure in respect of the Fleet since 1892. I think that my noble friend the noble Viscount behind me has answered that Question. It is because the whole naval aspect of the world has changed in those years. A vast new navy has sprung up in the western hemisphere. The fleet of Japan has come into existence; the German Navy has come into existence; and the great French Navy has maintained its shipbuilding and its efficiency as heretofore. In the old days there were only two great naval Powers—France and Great Britain—while Russia and Italy were important naval Powers. Now, while Italy has stood still, Russia has become a naval Power of the greatest importance. Japan has rivalled her. Germany and America have evolved navies of equal efficiency and strength. Therefore my answer to the noble Earl is that this country has done no more than recognise facts that stare her in the face—has done no more than make prudent preparation of a defensive nature which the exigencies of the situation demand. This country has never forced the pace in shipbuilding. She has followed prudently, taking note of what other countries have done. For that reason I recognise the full wisdom of the course the noble Earl himself followed, and the noble Viscount behind me and myself, in that we have never published a programme. We always took into account what other navies were known to be doing, but we have never published our intentions more than for the one year in which Parliament was asked to vote the money. And the reason is obvious. It is not desired to give any additional stimulus to the shipbuilding of other nations.

What are the duties and functions of the Navy? I do not dispute the general accuracy of the noble Earl's quotation from the Report of Lord Carnarvon's Commission, but he will forgive me when I say that I regard that description as quite inadequate. The duty of the Navy is to preserve these shores from invasion, and not these shores only, but the shores of every portion of the British Empire. It is the British Navy and the British Navy alone, which stands between the manhood of this country and conscription. Not only that, but you on the other side, who are so ardent in your advocacy of the principles of our present fiscal system, should never forget that the present fiscal system would be an impossibility were it not for the Navy and the maintenance of the strength of the Navy. To maintain the daily employment, the wages, the food of the population—that is the function of the Navy. It is not only to guard your shores and those of every colony and dependency in the

Empire, but it is to bring the bread to the working men of this country, to bring to the loom, to the forges, to the factories, the means by which they can earn the wages to support wife and children. That, and nothing less, is the duty of the Navy.

How can anyone examine the question of expenditure from the narrow point of view of an accurate balancing of tons and men? The two-Power standard applies only to battleships. It never has applied to cruisers, for reasons which I will presently explain. And the two-Power standard never has applied to any two particular nations, but always to the two strongest naval Powers. The two strongest Powers of Lord George Hamilton's Board in 1889 were France and Italy. If you compare the margin of security which Parliament provided under the Naval Defence Act of 1889 with the margin of security we at present enjoy, the margin was greater then than now. So far am I from agreeing with the noble Earl in thinking that our margin of security in battleships is now unnecessarily large, that I entirely and emphatically dissent from that view.

I turn to the noble Viscount's eloquent picture of the state of the world as it is now, with the influence of the neutral Power ready to make itself felt if opportunity occurs. I do not advocate, I never have advocated, a three-Power standard, because I do not think the finances of this country could afford it. As I have said before, stability of finance is just as necessary for this country as the strength and efficiency of her Fleet. You have to balance one against the other. But the spirit of the two-Power standard is not equality. The object is to win. It is reasonable security of victory in a contest with other Powers. The noble Earl is in entire concurrence with me that the two-Power standard never applied to cruisers.

*EARL SPENCER: I certainly considered that the two-Power standard applied chiefly to battleships, but also took cruisers into account; but I have always maintained that we must have a much larger number of cruisers than any two other Powers.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: There is no difference between the noble Earl and myself. The duties of cruisers are two-fold. They have to act as the eyes and ears of the battle fleet and also to protect our trade. Now I can only say in that respect that I am more anxious on the subject of cruisers than I am on the subject of battleships. Considering what does depend on the commerce of this country, considering all that is at stake, and the number of powerful ships that might prey on our commerce, and the enormous area of the ocean routes, the difficulties of finding a cruiser that has got at large and is preying on our commerce, I do not think we have any too many fast modern armoured cruisers, and I should be very sorry if any succeeding Board of Admiralty in any way slackened off in their supply to the Navy of those ships.

Now, with respect to the list of ships headed "vessels struck off the effective list and vessels not struck off," I have always objected to that heading. It does not represent the opinion of the Board of Admiralty. I have no responsibility for it. The Return was moved for in the House of Commons, and, therefore, it has to stand in the form in which it is; but it does not represent the facts of the case. Hitherto there have been only two classes of ships in the Navy, the fighting fleet and the non-effective fleet.

*EARL SPENCER: Surely there are reserve ships, which are not in the first fighting line.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: These are all included. Roughly, there are only two classes of ships, the ships in the fighting line and those not in the fighting line. Though the first class are not all going to be used immediately a state of war is declared, they are all effective fighting ships. Now as long as a ship was classified under the fighting fleet the obvious duty of the Controller was to keep her absolutely repaired. He could not tell when war was going to take place. It might take place within the next few months, and then he would be responsible if that ship was not in effective fighting order. The consequence was—I freely admit it—that considerable sums were spent on ships that shortly afterwards were put on the sale list. Now one of the reasons, though not the only reason, for the reclassification of ships has been, from the point of view of economy, to establish an intermediate class of ships that are still combatant ships, but which are approaching the time when they will be struck off the effective fighting list. On that middle class it has been decided not to spend money in repairs; so that in future it will be impossible to find ships on the sale list upon which a few years before a large sum of money has been spent. But it must not be implied that these ships of the middle class are of no use. On the contrary, these ships would be employed to supply the waste in war. If war were to break out they would not be immediately manned, but they would be brought to the dockyards near which they lie for the necessary repairs, and they would come in to supply the waste in war. They are by no means rubbish. If you turn to the experiences of Japan and Russia in the present war, you will find that they both found use for almost every conceivable class of ship, not, of course, in the fighting line, but for the many subsidiary purposes of the fleet. These ships with which I am dealing would be available for these purposes in time of war, and would be used for these purposes.

*EARL SPENCER: I did not say the ships of the llama class were rubbish. The ships that are rubbish are, of course, those that are about to be sold.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: It is quite true that among those which have been sold will be found ships on which money has been spent in repairs recently, and it is to avoid that expenditure in the future that this intermediate class has been established. But I would ask the noble Earl to remember that the "Medea," on which a considerable sum of money was spent, was used for the Boiler Committee's experiments, and that another of the vessels referred to was specially fitted as a tender to one of the gunnery schools, and has done a great volume of work during the three years she has been employed in that capacity. Therefore that expenditure has all been fruitful. As to the Return for which the noble Earl asks, perhaps he is not aware that an almost similar Return has been granted in the House of Commons, which will be published in a day or two. I would ask him not to press this Motion now, but when he sees that Return to tell me or my successor whether there is any fresh information which he desires, and I am sure that, with one exception, the Admiralty will be glad to meet his views. The one exception is that we have never given the exact complement of ships, and we do not desire to do so now.

I have been asked whether in the new distribution of the Fleet enough ships have been left to do the work of Imperial police and to go into shallow waters. I hope so, and I think so. I think that in this matter we have hitherto been most extravagant. The demands of the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office have been very constant. Many of their calls have been quite inevitable; but I cannot but think that not all of them would have been made if ships were not known to be at the disposal of the Ministers and Consuls concerned. Still, there is an amount of Imperial policing that must be done. It is of two kinds—first work by small craft to go up rivers, and secondly work by big cruisers displaying the flag either in the King's dominions or at some foreign port. As regards small craft I think we have left sufficient for the work they are called upon to do; but, as to that, experience will show.

As to the cruiser squadrons, they will undoubtedly, besides working with the battle fleets with which they are affiliated, be used to show the flag on the coasts of the American Continent and elsewhere. But I do not think our policy is open to the strictures of the noble Earl. He asks whether we do not run a serious risk in parting, even for a few weeks, the cruisers from the battleship fleet with which they would work in time of war. Of course, these two fleets will not be parted if the political horizon is not clear. But consider how easy it is to recall them, and how fast they can move. Under the present circumstances I would never say that it is not possible to separate the cruisers from the battleships with which they work. I am one of those who believe that a great war is not going to drop from the sky on a day when there is no diplomatic cloud on the horizon, and when our relations with all the Powers are of the most friendly nature, when there is no question of any sort or kind agitating the Foreign Office. To say that a cruiser squadron should not be sent across the Atlantic for a few weeks is a doctrine to which I am not prepared to subscribe.

The noble Viscount behind me asks me two Questions. He asks, Cannot destroyers be used for cruisers' work, and have they not been so used by Japan in the present war? I am not a naval officer. My opinion is, of course, but that of a civilian who takes a great interest in these matters and has had some experience, and as such I have no hesitation in expressing the view that a destroyer could never be employed to do the work of a cruiser. The functions of a destroyer are totally different from the functions of a cruiser, and I do not think it can be shown that the Japanese have ever employed a destroyer to perform the proper work of a cruiser. The reason why destroyers have loomed so large in the present war is that the struggle has taken place round a port in which there was a fleet in being that might emerge at any moment, supporting itself by a formidable torpedo flotilla, and that there was away, within a not too distant area, another fleet in being that was anxious for the first news of the movement of the other fleet in Port Arthur, and had cruisers outside Port Arthur waiting to convey that news. The part which the Japanese destroyers played was not that of cruisers, but that of guarding their own cruisers from the Russian torpedoes while watching for the Russian fleet in Port Arthur; and as that protection had to be constant week by week it frequently happened that duels occurred between Russian torpedo craft emerging from Port Arthur and the Japanese destroyers which were guarding their own cruisers.

The noble Earl opposite asks whether this change has not been made in a sudden and theatrical manner. I admit that it was done quickly, and that it may have the aspect which the noble Earl ascribes to it. But surely, once the policy was decided on by the Board of Admiralty, it was my duty to give the Chancellor of the Exchequer the fullest benefit he could get from it; for, if the change had been delayed or spread over a longer period, then so much money would have been spent which otherwise could have been saved. Therefore, my object was to do the thing at once and save as much money as I could in the process. The noble Lord criticises my use of the word "cadres," in referring to coaling stations in my Statement. If I had known that he had any objection to that word, I certainly would have chosen another. I innocently slipped into this word, which, of course, is commonly employed in military treatises. But what I meant was that we did not propose to use the dockyards at Halifax, Esquimault, and Jamaica for the repair of vessels in time of peace; but that if war broke out we could at once send out the necessary men and machinery to bring these dockyards into full operation.

Now, as regards policy. The Carnarvon Commission on Coaling Stations was a very important one, but since that Commission the whole naval situation in the West Indies has been completely revolutionised. What is the change? It is one of the most marvellous changes that has taken place in modern history. It is the rise of the American Navy. When the Carnarvon Commission sat that navy had a great history, but it was a very small and feeble navy judged by the number of its ships and men. Now those of you who have read the very striking articles of Sir William White in *The Times* describing his journey through the United States will remember his descriptions of what he witnessed in the dockyards on the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard. I think he enumerated sixteen armoured cruisers and thirteen battleships on the stocks in the United States. In addition there is the magnificent navy afloat. Your Lordships would be amazed at the preparations made for the navy in the future. A deputation from the Board went over last September to see a famous American naval college. They were received with the utmost courtesy, hospitality and cordiality, and were shown everything. If your Lordships went down to Dartmouth or Osborne perhaps those who are of an economical turn of mind might think that the Board of

Admiralty had been rather extravagant in the naval colleges they have provided. Those two colleges together will, if my memory serves, have cost about £600,000. But what do you think the Congress of the United States have appropriated for a naval college? Over 11,000,000 dollars; and the place is almost one of the wonders of the world. There is princely accommodation for the education of as many naval cadets as we are going to have as our maximum. That is the change that has taken place since the Carnarvon Commission reported.

Then the noble Earl asked me why there was an increase in the amount inserted for merchant cruisers in the current Estimates. I was surprised to see it myself, and I asked the Financial Secretary, who reminded me that this year the old contract runs out and the new contract begins, and that there is overlapping payment—almost a double payment in one year. Then I come to a very important matter which I am grateful to my noble friend for mentioning, because it has been mentioned in the other House and alluded to in the Press—that is, the changes which have been made in the distribution of business at the Admiralty. I have never been more surprised during the course of my term of office at the Admiralty than I was at the meaning which has been read in some quarters into these changes. For these changes I, and I alone, am responsible. I use the word "I" advisedly, because this distribution of business is by Orders of Council the special responsibility of the First Lord. The subject is one in which I have taken great interest, and my opinions during the years that I have been First Lord had been very clearly forming themselves as to the distribution of business which was to be aimed at.

So far from my object being to make the First Sea Lord anything approximating to the old Commander-in-Chief in the Army, exactly the contrary was my intention. He had certain executive functions. I desired to relieve him of those executive functions. I desired to make him responsible for advising the First Lord on literally nothing else than naval policy. That is my object. I will remind your Lordships of two functions of which I am responsible for relieving the First Sea Lord. The First Sea Lord was responsible for discipline. Can anything be more important as a mark of the Commander-in-Chief than to be responsible for discipline? I have taken that function from the First Sea Lord. The First Sea Lord was responsible for the appointment of commanders. I have relieved him of that. The reason was not that I distrusted him, but that I wanted to reserve him entirely for advising the First Lord on the preparation for war, all large questions of naval policy and maritime war, as to the fighting and sea-going efficiency of the Fleet, its organisation and mobilisation, and the distribution and movements of all ships in commission. With that also went the control of the Intelligence, Hydrographical, and Naval Ordnance Departments. What is the genesis of this? My opinions had been formulating themselves in the way I have explained. I did not want to introduce the change while Lord Walter Kerr was the First Sea Lord, because it is rather difficult to ask a man who has been accustomed to work one system and to perform certain duties to consent to a change and to give up some of those duties during his tenure of office. Therefore I said I would make the change when the change took place in the First Sea Lord; and it was made the moment Sir John Fisher succeeded Lord Walter Kerr.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: Has this change been in operation from the time Sir John Fisher entered the Admiralty?

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: Yes.

VISCOUNT GOSCHEN: I understood that the change was only just recently made.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: The changes were made absolutely on the day Sir John Fisher came to the Admiralty, but one other very small change was made the other day, and so a fresh Order became necessary. My attention has been drawn to the note at the end of the Statement issued regarding the distribution of business. The note says—

"It is to be understood that in any matter of great importance the First Sea Lord is always to be consulted by the other Sea Lords, the Civil Lord, and the Parliamentary or Permanent Secretary, and he will refer to the First Lord for any further action considered necessary, such as, for instance, bringing the matter formally before the Board. It is, of course, understood that all members of the Board will communicate direct with the First Lord, in accordance with immemorial custom, whenever they wish to do so."

It never occurred to me that anybody would object to that note. It was not intended to introduce any new procedure into the Board of Admiralty, but to describe exactly what always has gone on at the Board of Admiralty. I go further and say that unless that went on the Board of Admiralty could not do its work. How is it possible for the First Sea Lord to advise on questions of policy unless his colleagues, with their separate responsibilities, are in constant friendly communication with him? It is the way the work is always done. How is the Fourth Sea Lord to provide for the proper coaling of the Fleet unless he knows what policy is in the mind of the First Sea Lord as to the distribution of the Fleet? How can the Civil Lord see that proper barracks, docks, and other buildings are provided unless he is kept constantly in touch with the First Sea Lord in respect of any possible changes of policy? All this note is meant to indicate is that what has always been done should be done, and that on all questions of great importance—and the word "great" is used very advisedly—there should be constant communication and conference between the Sea Lords.

Then it is supposed that when I say that the First Sea Lord will refer to the First Lord for further action considered necessary that that is as much as to say that the question cannot be brought forward before the Board by the First Lord unless with the concurrence of the First Sea Lord. Nothing could be further from the fact. It has always been possible for any member of the Board to bring any subject absolutely independently before the First Lord, and I go further and say that any member of the Board has a right to claim that any question he chooses shall, with the concurrence of the First Lord, be brought before the Board formally for settlement. Until I saw the public comments it never occurred to anybody inside the Board of Admiralty that this described anything but the constant, immemorial, necessary usage. If there is a difference of opinion between the Sea Lords it is the First Sea Lord naturally who will bring the matter to the First Lord. There never was a First Sea Lord more steeped in the traditions of the Admiralty as to the Navy than Lord Walter Kerr; there never was a First Sea Lord more conscious of his responsibility for maintaining the full rights of the Board; there never was a First Sea Lord less likely to try and impair the authority of his colleagues or to fail in respect for their separate and independent position. If there was a difference of opinion between the Sea Lords which could be settled, they always went to Lord Walter Kerr, who came to me and said, "This point we are obliged to refer to you." Therefore this note does nothing more than indicate what has always been the custom.

In conclusion, I wish to say that if the Board have been able in the last year or two to advance the efficiency of the Navy, as has been so generously admitted by Lord Spencer and Lord Goschen, it is only because of the work of the Boards that preceded them under Lord Goschen, Lord Spencer, and Lord George Hamilton. The whole has been one long process of evolution. Every point of our policy has its starting-point in the work of Lord Goschen, Lord Spencer, or Lord George Hamilton, and I hope it will always be so. The Board have always worked as a Board and never as individuals, and I hope that it will remember that its great reputation in the country and with the services rests on the fact of that complete cohesion and loyalty of each member to the rest of the Board, and on the fact that there never has been, as there never ought to be, a revolution in naval administration. We have had one continual development and change from the days of Nelson to the present day, and as long as that remains true the Board of Admiralty will deserve the confidence of the country.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

House adjourned at half-past Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 21*st March*, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order 63 has been complied with, viz.:—London United Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petition for the following Bill, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Malvern Water.

Ordered, That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

RAILWAY BILLS (GROUP No. 5).

Mr. COMPTON RICKETT reported from the Committee on Group No. 5 of Railway Bills; That, for the convenience of Parties, they had adjourned till Monday next, at half-past Eleven of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

South Metropolitan Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITION.

SUGAR TAX.

Petition from London, for repeal; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3329 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Light at Oyster Island, Sligo.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if the light at Oyster Island, Sligo, is in the position described in the Admiralty List of Lights for 1905; and, if not, will he state the error, how long the position has been incorrectly described, and if he will cause the error to be rectified immediately.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights that the lighthouse in question is in the position described in the Admiralty List of Lights for 1905.

Irish Lights Tender "Alexandra."

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if the Irish lights tender "Princess Alexandra" has fulfilled all the conditions of the specification; if this vessel is now in the builders' hands; and, if so, for what purpose, and for how long.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights that their new tender the "Alexandra," not "Princess Alexandra," has been in the builders' hands since December for some alterations to enable her to fulfil speed conditions, and that she will probably be ready by the end of the present month, or the middle of April at latest.

Sectoring of Light at Roancarrig.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if the sectoring of the light at Roancarrig now agrees with that described on the Admiralty charts.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights that the sectoring of this light is in agreement with that described on the Admiralty charts.

Superannuation Allowances of the Lighthouse Boards.

Mr. CHARLES McARTHUR: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he will furnish the names, particulars of service, and amounts received by the pensioners of the three Lighthouse Boards as included under the heading of superannuation allowances in the lighthouse accounts.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I shall be happy to supply the hon. Member with the information as soon as I receive it from the lighthouse authorities.

Engagements and Discharges of British Seamen at Continental Ports.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can state how many sailors and firemen were engaged on British ships at the following ports on the Continent of Europe during the year 1904, namely:—Bordeaux, Havre, Dunkirk, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Bremen, and Hamburg; and whether he will also state the number of sailors and firemen engaged at the above-mentioned ports on British ships during the year 1903, and state how many nationalities they include.

Mr. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can state how many sailors and firemen were discharged from British ships at the following ports on the Continent of Europe during the year 1904, namely:—Bordeaux, Havre, Dunkirk, Antwerp, Rotterdam, Bremen, and Hamburg; and whether he will also state the number of sailors and firemen discharged at the above-mentioned ports from British ships during the same period, and how many nationalities they include.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I propose to answer these two Questions, put by the hon. Member, together. The engagements and discharges were as follows at Havre, Dunkirk, Antwerp, and Rotterdam:—

	Seamen engaged.		Seamen discharged.	
	British.	Foreign.	British.	Foreign.
Havre:—				
1903	28	82	111	82
1904	51	91	85	95
Dunkirk:				
1903	156	468	469	325
1904	81	321	288	247
Antwerp:—				
1903	3,495	12,145	4,958	10,398
1904	3,227	10,855	4,323	9,649
Rotterdam:—				
1903	1,836	5,004	3,317	4,278
1904	1,642	4,581	2,914	3,799

I am not in a position to give any statistics as regards the engagements and discharges at Bordeaux. As regards Hamburg and Bremen and Bremerhaven the statistics in my possession do not distinguish between British and foreign seamen; the engagements and discharges at these ports were as follows:—

	Seamen engaged.	Seamen discharged.
Hamburg:—		
1903 - - - - - -	5,322	5,662
1904 - - - - - -	6,077	6,454
Bremen and Bremerhaven:—		
1903 - - - - - -	688	851
1904 - - - - - -	1,151	1,128

I am informed that between 70 and 75 per cent. of the seamen engaged at Hamburg and Bremen and Bremerhaven were foreigners, chiefly Germans and Scandinavians. As regards the number of nationalities included, the seamen engaged at Havre in 1903 were of fifteen nationalities, and those discharged of thirteen nationalities; in 1904 there were eleven and twelve nationalities respectively. At Dunkirk the seamen engaged in 1903 were of eighteen nationalities, those discharged of nineteen nationalities; in 1904 those engaged were of eighteen nationalities, and those discharged of eighteen nationalities.

Report of Accident on s.s. "Spheroid."

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can state if any report was made to the Board of Trade by the master of the British steamship "Spheroid," as provided by Section 425 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, respecting the accident which occurred on this steamer on September 16th, 1904, whereby a seaman named Bodtman was severely scalded in consequence of the defective condition of the ship's boiler; and, if not, whether the President of the Board of Trade will cause inquiry to be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) No report under Section 425 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, has been received by the Board of Trade in the case to which the hon. Member refers, but I am informed that an entry of the accident by which a seaman was scalded last September was made in the official log. On the return of the "Spheroid" to the United Kingdom further inquiries shall be made.

British Seamen discharged at Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Hamburg—Wages paid—Amount transmitted by Board of Trade.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state the amount of money paid to seamen on their discharge from British ships at the following ports, namely, Rotterdam, Antwerp, and Hamburg, during the year 1904; and whether he can state the amount of money transmitted by the Board of Trade to this country from the ports named during the same period.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The amount of money paid to seamen on their discharge from British ships at the ports referred to during the year 1904 was: at Rotterdam, £62,421; at Antwerp, £104,099; at Hamburg, £56,139; and the amounts received by the British Consuls for transmission to this country during the same period were: Rotterdam, £19,387; Antwerp, £30,368; and Hamburg, £20,233.

"Ovingdean Grange"—Replacing of British Crew by Foreigners.

MR. NANNETTI: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the steamship "Ovingdean Grange" engaged a crew at Cardiff on May 20th, 1904, and, after making a voyage to the River Plate and other places, discharged part cargo at London and Hull and the remainder at Newcastle, and then proceeded to Tyne Dock and loaded bunker coal for Antwerp, where the crew was paid off and foreigners shipped in their places; and whether, in view of the effect of this practice in displacing British labour by foreigners, he intends to take any steps to prevent, as far as possible, the engagement of foreign crews for British ships at Continental ports.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The movements of the "Ovingdean Grange" are correctly stated in the Question. The Board of Trade have no information as to the discharge of part of the cargo at London or Hull. The crew for the first voyage consisted of twenty-one British and nine foreign seamen, for the second of thirteen British and nineteen foreign seamen. We have no power to take any steps such as are indicated in the last Question.

Crown Lands at Claygate, Surrey.

MR. TREVELYAN (Yorkshire, W.R., Elland): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury how much of the woodland south of Claygate, near Esher, in Surrey, belongs to the Crown, to what use the woods are at present put, and why the public are refused access to them.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*) Some 800 acres of enclosed woodland south of Claygate form part of a larger estate belonging to the Crown. The woods are at present appropriated for the growth of timber and underwood, and the shooting over them is let. The admission of the public to the woods would involve damage to the timber and underwood and a consequent loss of revenue to the Crown.

Limited Liability Companies and Poison Regulations.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the fact that limited liability companies are not amenable to the Poison Regulations prescribed by the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and approved by the Privy Council, and to the statement of the President of the Board of Trade that the question of amending the law to remedy this evil would not be germane to a Companies Bill, he will take into consideration the expediency of recommending that facilities be given during the present session for the passing of the Pharmacy Acts Amendment Bill, which is designed to place companies in the same position as individuals in regard to the sale of poisons.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I regret that I cannot promise facilities to the Bill referred to by the hon. Member. I am not in a position to add anything to the Answer which I gave on March 14th† to the hon. Member for Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities.

New Post Office at Dewsbury.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): To ask the Postmaster-General whether any, and, if so, what steps have been taken with regard to the proposed new post office at Dewsbury, and how far the present premises are suitable, and what increased accommodation it is proposed to provide in the near future.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) A site has been acquired for a new post office at Dewsbury; the plans are practically settled, and though financial exigencies will, it is feared, not permit of the building being begun this year, there is every hope that it will be found possible to begin it next year. The present office is no longer large enough and it cannot be satisfactorily extended.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Prize of War Bill.

MR. GARDNER (Berkshire, Wokingham): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is proposed to introduce the Bill consolidating the various Acts relating to naval prizes of war.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 13.3.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): This Bill has already been introduced in another place.

H.M.S. "Kent."

MR. GARDNER: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he can give any information as to the stranding of H.M.S. "Kent" in the Firth of Forth.

MR. PRETYMAN: The "Kent" dragged her anchors during a heavy gale and grounded off St. Margaret's Hope. She was refloated without damage and has returned to her service. The usual official inquiry will follow in due course, when the circumstances will be fully investigated according to the custom of the service.

South African War—Destruction of Stores, etc.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the circumstances attaching to the destruction of emergency rations and meat and vegetable rations in South Africa, as stated at page 257 of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, were such as to have called in any instance or instances for the striking off the War Office contractors' lists of any one or more of the firms supplying the rations in question; and, if so, will he give the names of such firm or firms, with the reason for removal.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): As regards emergency rations, it is not proposed to order any more rations of the same description. As regards meat and vegetable rations, the treatment to which they were subjected, which was exceptional and, owing to war conditions, unavoidable, rendered it impossible to prove that the contractors were in any way responsible for the deterioration of the supplies. The rations were put up in this country under the supervision of the Quartermaster-General and satisfactorily passed inspection before shipment. Under these circumstances the question of the removal of the firms from the list does not arise.

DR. MACNAMARA: Am I to understand that no contractors' names have been removed from the list on account of the condition of the rations sent to South Africa?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No. I am informed that is the case.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can now say whether it will be possible to lay Papers showing the instances in which rations, stores, and supplies generally despatched to South Africa during 1899, 1900, and 1901 were destroyed or returned as unfit in quality or short in amount, with the reason for their destruction or return, and the names of the contractors supplying such stores in each case in which the loss involved was £1,000 or upwards.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have given directions for the preparation of the Return giving the details asked for, so far as the information in our possession admits, but I am not sure that in all cases the particulars asked for were placed on record by the military boards who condemned the supplies.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will the Return be laid in the terms of the Question?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, if the hon. Member will move for it.

Imperial Yeomanry Committee Grant.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the War Office has asked for the details and two vouchers referred to at page xiii. of the Third Report (1904) of the Committee of Public Accounts as not being forthcoming in respect of a sum of £460,000 out of the total sum granted, £1,265,000, to the Imperial Yeomanry Committee; if so, what reply has been received; and, if not, whether application will now be made for these details and vouchers.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The statement in question would appear to be based on replies given by the late Comptroller and Auditor-General. I understand that vouchers are, as a matter of fact, in existence, although they have not been rendered to the War Office. The arrangement with the

Imperial Yeomany Committee was the issue to them of the Capitation Grant for each Yeoman raised and equipped, the administration of the Capitation Grant being left to the Imperial Yeomanry Committee. Following the practice in regard to the Volunteer Capitation Grant, no vouchers would be called for to show in detail how the Committee in their discretion expended the grant.

DR. MACNAMARA: Will application now be made for these details?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir. The transaction has been long closed and the ordinary procedure followed.

Small Arms Ammunition.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any attempt has been made to trace the origin of manufacture of the 50,000,000 rounds of small arms ammunition returned from South Africa at the close of the war as unfit; and whether it is proposed to recover the £1,200 per million rounds which is estimated as the cost of remaking the 30,000,000 rounds of this ammunition still in existence.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: This ammunition was recovered from the field after issue; it was therefore regarded as unfit, not from any inherent defect in manufacture, but owing to suspicion of possible damage having occurred in course of the operations. No question, therefore, arises of tracing the origin of manufacture. Indeed, it may be assumed that the rounds referred to came from all the various sources of manufacture, Government factories and trade alike.

Strength of the Infantry.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the number of infantry now quartered in the British Isles, India, South Africa, Egypt, and other stations.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is not usual to publish details of the actual strengths of the troops quartered at home and abroad, and I am not prepared in the present instance to depart from this practice. The general Annual Report, which will be issued in a few days, gives the numbers asked for by the hon. Member on October 1st, 1904.

The Home-service Army and the Volunteers.

MAJOR SEELY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to proceed with the formation of a home-service Army, together with a reduction of the Volunteers.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: With respect to the first part of the hon. Member's Question, I have nothing at present to add to the statements made by me in the Memorandum accompanying the Estimates. It is proposed to effect a reduction in the strength of the Volunteer force.

MAJOR SEELY: Will the right hon. Gentleman say whether it is a reduction in actual numbers or in establishment, or in both?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is in both; it must take place very gradually.

Colonial Agents-General and Supply of Stores for South Africa.

SIR JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any commission or remuneration was paid or agreed to be paid to the Agents-General of the Colonies or other and what persons, in respect of orders for the supply of stores to the War Office for South Africa; and, if so, what are the particulars.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No commission or remuneration of any sort was paid by the War Office to the Agents-General or any persons in respect of orders placed with the Colonies by the War Office for supplies to South Africa.

DR. MACNAMARA: Was any commission paid by the contractors to the Agents-General?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I cannot say.

War Office Contractors.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for

War if he can state the names of the firms referred to in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, under the heading "Sales of Surplus Supplies, as A, B, and C, respectively."

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The names of the firms are as follow:—A, Messrs. E. Stepney; B, Messrs. Meyer & Co.; C, Messrs. Wilson and Worthington. This is the order in which they have been given on each former occasion.

Reserve of Officers.

MR. SOAMES (Norfolk, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the name of a captain, late of the Royal Scots Regiment, appears in the Army List in the Reserve of Officers, although he has been dead more than nine years; and whether any, and what, steps are taken to keep the list of Reserve of Officers up to date.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The list of the Reserve of Officers is carefully revised and checked once a quarter, but it is impossible to keep in touch with officers who retire "receiving a gratuity," unless they report themselves each year in accordance with the provisions of Article 662, Royal Warrant. The officer referred to retired "receiving a gratuity" on the 26th April, 1893, but failed to report himself to the War Office after that date. This "gratuity" class of retired officer will cease to exist during 1906.

Whitchurch Range.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the cottages at the back of Whitchurch Range, which preclude rifle practice there, were in existence at the time of the construction of the range, and what was the date of that construction; if so, whether the officer responsible for the plan has been censured or his promotion retarded.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The cottages alluded to were known by the officers responsible to be in existence at the time of the construction of the range, but they were not considered to be within the danger area. The range was constructed in June, 1902. Recent experiments with the Lee-Metford rifle have given a greater knowledge of the powers and extent of ricochet shots than was possessed at the time this range was constructed. Further inquiry will be made as to the degree of responsibility attaching to the officers concerned in the selection of the range.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: May I ask whether the name of the officer who constructed this range at a cost of £5,000 is known? When I last put the Question the right hon. Gentleman promised to make inquiry.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Of course the name is known, but I am very loth to mention the names of officers.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Do I understand that inquiry will be made as to whether this officer is blameworthy?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have said that inquiry will be made.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Then I will put the Question again.

Surplus Tobacco from South Africa.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can explain why 980,186 lbs. of tobacco, sent home from South Africa, was disposed of at 2d. per lb., seeing that it was bought at 9½d. per lb., and that 3,000,000 lbs. of similar tobacco was sold to the troops in South Africa at 1s. to 1s. 6d. per lb., as set forth in the last Report from the Committee of Public Accounts.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The tobacco sent home consisted of such surplus tobacco, some of it partially damaged, as could not be sold to the troops and for which no offer could be obtained in South Africa. I am informed that every endeavour was made to secure the widest competition in this country, and the prices realised were the best obtainable.

Enfield Small Arms Factory—Discharges.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the notice posted on March 16th at the Enfield Small Arms Factory that all men of less than seven years service would be discharged on March 31st, he would consider as an alternative the propriety of reducing the working time in the factory by twelve hours per week, pending the settlement of the larger question as stated by the Prime Minister.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield): I am afraid that in the case of the 403 men now under notice at Enfield it is not possible to obviate the discharges by working short time, as it will be necessary to make still further reductions. The question of working short time as an alternative to further discharges will be considered so long as there is any prospect of reversion to full time within a reasonable period.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: Do I understand that does not affect the 403 men?

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: That is so.

Cost of the New Rifle.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what is the difference between the contract price for the 1905–6 rifle at the Enfield Small Arms Factory and the private manufacturer.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The exact difference between the contract and Ordnance Factory price for the manufacture of the new short rifle in 1905–6 cannot at present be accurately calculated. For the current year the contract price is £4 11s. 8d. and the Ordnance Factory price is estimated at £3 17s.

Manufacture of the New Rifle.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the proposed discharge of men in large numbers from the Enfield Small Arms Factory will disorganise the scheme for manufacturing the new rifle.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The reply is in the negative.

Rifle Manufacture Statistics.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what number of the service rifles, Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield, were made at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, during the years 1889–90, 1890–91, 1891–92, 1892–93, 1893–94; what was the cost per rifle each year; what number of Lee-Metford and Lee-Enfield rifles were made at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Birmingham. during the same period, and what was the cost per rifle for each year; what was the number of these rifles made at the Birmingham Small Arms Factory during the same period and the cost per rifle each year; what was the number of these rifles made at the London Small Arms Factory, Old Ford, during the same period, and what was the cost per rifle each year respectively; if the cost of establishment, depreciation of plant, and machinery are included in the cost of the rifle at Enfield; whether he is aware that wages at Enfield are admittedly higher than at any other small arms factory; and that a large amount of sub-contracting exists at the present time at the private firms resulting in the employment of a number of men by sub-contractors at low wages?

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: If my hon. and gallant friend will allow me, I propose to give the statistics for which he asks in a general Return. This Return will, if the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham consents, include the Return which he has been promised, and the information which my hon. friend the Member for the Hertford Division of Hertfordshire is desirous of obtaining, if he also concurs. As regards the last part of the Question, I have no recent information as to the rate of wages paid by the trade, nor am I aware of any sub-contracting other than that which is customary in the trade.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: When is there a likelihood of the Return being published?

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I believe in a very few days.

Enfield Factory Staff.

Colonel LOCKWOOD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the distress existing in the locality of the Enfield Small Arms Factory owing to the shortage of work for the last two years, he will reconsider the proposed reduction of the staff with a view to preventing the accentuation of the distress.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The programme for the manufacture of small arms next year will not provide sufficient work for the existing staff in the Government Small Arms Factories. It is, therefore, regretted that reduction in the staff will be absolutely necessary.

Gauge Makers at Enfield.

Colonel BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many gauge makers are at present employed at the Enfield Factory on the work of the new rifle; and how many would be employed if the proposed reduction were carried out.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Ninety-six gauge makers are at present employed at Enfield. It is not proposed to reduce this number at present.

Machinery at the Enfield Small Arms Factory.

Colonel BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what is the cost of the new machinery laid down at the Enfield Small Arms Factory during the last three years; what percentage of the plant at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, is now lying idle; what percentage will be idle if the discharges now contemplated by the Government are carried out; and what is the estimated cost of the electrical plant now being laid down at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The figures of the cost of the new machinery are as follows:—1902–3, £39,966; 1903–4, £48,527; 1904–5, £8,500. About 20 per cent. of the plant is now lying idle and about 75 per cent. will be lying idle if the discharges now contemplated are carried out. The cost of the electric plant now being laid down is estimated at £6,679.

Discharge Gratuities at Enfield Small Arms Factory.

Colonel BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will allow the men employed at Enfield, who may be able to find employment elsewhere, to receive the gratuity and be discharged on reduction.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Every consideration will be given to individual cases, but no general undertaking can be given in the sense suggested by the Question. It must be remembered that seven years service is required to entitle a man to a gratuity when discharged on reduction.

Sword and Bayonet Manufacture at Enfield.

Colonel BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what numbers of swords, bayonets, and sword bayonets have been made at the Enfield Small Arms Factory during the years 1888–9, 1889–90, 1890–91, 1891–2, 1892–3, 1893–4, 1894–5, 1895–6, 1896–7, 1897–8, 1898–9, 1899–1900, 1900–1, 1901–2, 1902–3, and the cost each year respectively; what numbers have been given to the trade each year of each arm, and what is the cost each year respectively; what are the numbers given to the Enfield Small Arms Factory and the trade respectively for the coming year.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: If my hon. and gallant friend will permit me, I will include the statistics for which he asks in the general Return which I propose to give, and which I alluded to in my reply to a previous Question. In regard to the last part of the Question, the allocation for the coming year has not yet been settled.

South African Mining Compounds.

Mr. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that a South African mining company has erected a barbed wire fence round its compound, and has covered the whole of the open space in the centre of the compound overhead with wire netting; and whether he will give instructions for this form of confinement to be discontinued.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington): If the hon. Member will communicate to me the name of the company to which he refers, I will consider whether it is necessary to inquire into the matter.

MR. LEVY: The Frank Smith Diamond Mining Company.

Colonial Marriages.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has received any communication from the Government of any of the self-governing Colonies urging that marriages which have been lawfully contracted in other parts of the Empire should be legalised in this country.

MR. LYTTELTON: Nothing has been received since the Answer given to the similar Question asked by the hon. and gallant Member on March 13th,† to which I would refer him.

GENERAL LAURIE: I never received that Answer.

Transvaal War Contribution.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information not yet disclosed to the House which would explain Lord Milner's statement that the promised contribution of the Transvaal to the cost of the war is an obligation of honour only; whether he can state upon whose honour the obligation is founded; whether the obligation is less binding upon the Government of the Transvaal than is the obligation upon other British Colonies to pay their debts; and whether he has any reason to suppose that the Government of the Transvaal do not admit the obligation as binding upon them.

MR. LYTTELTON: I believe the hon. Gentleman was fortunate enough not to hear my speech yesterday,† but I must refer him to it. He will there find that I dealt fully with the subject of this Question.

MR. McKENNA: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give me a shorter Answer?

Excessive Drinking in Burma.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH (Flintshire): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the Burma Excise Administration Report for 1904, in which the Deputy Commissioner for Tharrawaddy and others allude to the great increase in the habit of drinking to excess among the Burmese, and to the difficulties experienced by the Excise officers in Burma in suppressing illicit distillation; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any steps in the matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): The Report to which the hon. Member refers shows that the local authorities are fully alive to the evil, which mainly results from the increasing wealth of the population. In Lower Burma, in order to restrict facilities for obtaining liquor, the number of shop licences has been reduced in the current year by twelve per cent. The local Government has further directed a systematic scrutiny of shop licences in every district with a view to securing, if possible, still further reductions. Measures are being taken to deal with illicit distillation of country spirits, which is confined to the wilder and more inaccessible tracts. I do not consider that any action on my part is called for.

Indian Water Supplies.

MR. SAMUEL SMITH: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what provision has been made, by the local Governments or otherwise, for conserving and extending the water supply in Guzerat, the Central Provinces, and the Deccan, since the investigations made four years ago by the Scott-Moncrieff Commission in those districts.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 1182.

† See page 554.

MR. BRODRICK: The following is the latest information in my possession:—In Gujerat attention has chiefly been devoted to the inspection and repair of small tanks. The work of restoring 532 of these tanks which were out of repair is in progress. In the northern part of the Deccan a number of minor irrigation works of the nature of masonry works across streams have been inspected and repaired; four small tanks have been constructed, and projects for twelve others are under investigation. In the southern portion of the Deccan the engineering staff is occupied principally in the repair of minor irrigation works. In addition, estimates have been prepared for two larger projects, one to cost forty-one lakhs in the Poona district, and another in Belgaum costing thirty-three lakhs. In the Central Provinces the construction of twelve tanks, the aggregate cost of which is estimated at over twenty-one lakhs, has been sanctioned for protective purposes; in four of the tanks work is already well advanced. A number of minor tanks have been surveyed, and in the past year thirty-six tanks were begun under the grant-in-aid system.

Indian Tea Association and the Import Duty on Tea.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received representations from the Government of India on behalf of the Indian Tea Association, intimating that the present import duty on tea has imposed a serious burden on the tea industry in India, and urging the necessity for a substantial reduction of the duty in the forthcoming Budget; and whether these representations have been communicated to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. BRODRICK: The answer to both Questions is in the affirmative.

British Somaliland.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what are the limitations of British Somaliland within which effective protection is now given to the native population; and whether natives are now armed to protect themselves in the whole of the area in British Somaliland outside such limitations. Perhaps, having regard to the statement of the noble Lord last night on the rising of the House, he will inform the House whether the Government is likely to be induced to modify or vary in any way the policy recently announced owing to arrangements having been made with the Mullah.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): I am not aware that it is the intention of the Government to modify their policy. The right to British protection is limited to the country inhabited by the tribes with whom His Majesty's Government have treaty engagements. The Answer to the second paragraph is in the negative.

Income-Tax Collectors in Scotland.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer at what date the collection of the income-tax was first added to the other duties of the officers of Inland Revenue (Excisemen) in Scotland.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): The collection of income-tax in Scotland through "Excise officials" of the Inland Revenue was first made in 1854. But the particular officers who may be taken to fall under the term "Excisemen" were not so employed until 1879.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates—Harrison's Case.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that a labourer named Harrison was recently refused a certificate of exemption from vaccination for his child by the magistates sitting at Spilsby and Boston; that he was subsequently summoned, and in default of payment of the fine of £1 and £1 2s. 6d. costs, was sent to prison for one month; and that since this man's release he was, on the 27th February, again summoned for not obeying the vaccination order; and, in view of the fact that he has repeatedly endeavoured to make clear that he conscientiously believes that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of his child, will the Secretary of State consider the expediency of directing the attention of the magistrates at Spilsby and Boston to the remarks made by the Lord Chief Justice at Birmingham, on the 27th July last, in regard to the principles on which the Act ought to be administered.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have made inquiries into this case, and I learn that the remarks on the subject of conscientious objection to vaccination, made by the Lord Chief Justice at the Birmingham Summer Assizes, were brought to the notice of the Spilsby magistrates before they convicted Harrison. The question whether the circumstances justify the issue of a certificate of exemption is in each case one for the discretion of the magistrates, with which I have no power to interfere.

Factory Orders—Overtime Regulations.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the trade union representing the operatives affected by the issue of Order No. 1,696 was consulted before such issue, or in what way was the opinion of the workpeople concerned ascertained.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative; and to the second part is that, as I have already explained to the hon. Member, His Majesty's Inspector for the district reported to me that the operatives concerned would strongly object to the abolition of overtime in the making up of the articles named.

MR. SHACKLETON: Can the right hon. Gentleman say in what way he ascertained that opinion?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I will make inquiry. I cannot say at present, but the report I have is amply confirmed by the fact that since the publication of the Draft Order no objection at all has been brought to my notice.

MR. SHACKLETON: Has the right hon. Gentleman not received repeated objections from people in Belfast?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Not that I am aware of, but I will inquire and let the hon. Gentleman know.

MR. TENNANT (Berwickshire): Will the report of the inspector be laid on the Table?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I will consider that.

Alleged Wrongful Convictions—Cases of Edalji and Rolls.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will give instructions that, in connection with the appeals in the cases of ex-Constable Rolls, of the Metropolitan Constabulary, and George Edalji, all the documents in the possession of the prosecution and the reports presented to the Home Secretary which have induced him to reject petitions for their release may be inspected by the representatives of Rolls and Edalji, respectively, so as to enable them to give such further information and explanation to the Home Secretary as may be deemed vital to a further consideration of these cases.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The reply is in the negative. In the cases referred to I have given the fullest consideration to any and every representation on behalf of the prisoners which has been submitted to me by their friends or otherwise, and I have taken every available means to obtain information before arriving at a decision. It would be inconsistent with my duty as the adviser of the Crown in the exercise of the prerogative of mercy to allow prisoners or their friends to have access to documents in my possession which are always of a confidential nature. I am always ready to consider any further representations which may be made to me on behalf of a prisoner.

Royal Commission on London Traffic.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR (Christchurch): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can say when the Royal Commission on London Traffic is expected to issue its Report.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The Royal Commission on London Traffic are now considering their Report, but they are unable at present to state at what date it will be possible for the Report to be presented to Parliament.

Military Prisoners in Civil Prisons.

MR. KENNETH BALFOUR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the transfer of military prisoners to military prisons has been completed; and, if not, can he state the number of soldiers now in convict and local prisons.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The transfer of military prisoners to military prisons, and of the administration of these prisons to the War Office, was completed in the course of last year. Only those soldiers who are sentenced to penal servitude, or who are convicted of criminal offences, are now committed to civil prisons. On December 31st, 1904, there were sixty-six soldiers in convict prisons, and 157 soldiers in local prisons.

Royal Commission on Trades Disputes.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can inform the House when the Royal Commission on Trades Disputes is expected to present its Report; and whether, in view of the fact that the Trades Union and Trades Disputes Bill will be shortly considered by the Standing Committee on Law, it is possible for the Commission to issue their Report without delay.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The Royal Commission on Trade Disputes are engaged in the consideration of their Report, but they are unable to name any definite date for its issue. I hope it will be before the Report stage of the Bill.

Pauper Alien Lunatics.

*COLONEL LEGGE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can give the number of pauper alien lunatics and imbeciles maintained in lunatic asylums and public institutions in the United Kingdom; and whether any means exist of ascertaining the country of origin of such lunatics and imbeciles.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The number of pauper alien lunatics maintained in county and borough asylums in England and Wales was, in 1903, 817, as is shown in Table XIV. A. on page 146 of the last Report of the Lunacy Commissioners. The same table gives the countries of origin, information as to which is obtained from the medical officers of asylums. I regret I am unable to give the number of alien imbeciles maintained in public institutions other than asylums, and also that, without longer notice, I cannot give the number of alien lunatics for the whole of the United Kingdom.

Employment of Children Act—London County Council By-Laws.

*COLONEL LEGGE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the by-laws made by the London County Council under the Employment of Children Act have yet been approved by the Home Office; and, if not, what has been the cause of the delay in settling these rules.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: No, Sir. These by-laws were formally made by the Council and submitted to me only a few days ago. The delay has been due, I understand, to the fact that the by-laws were referred by the Council to the education committee for their consideration.

MR. TENNANT: Will the right hon. Gentleman consent to a Return of the by-laws issued under this Act?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Does the hon. Gentleman mean for the whole of England?

MR. TENNANT: Yes.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Yes, it might be useful, but perhaps it would be better to wait for a time, as many by-laws are in process of completion.

National Telephone Agreement.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby): I beg to ask the

Postmaster-General whether he can and will arrange in the Agreement with the National Telephone Company that until the transfer to the Government the requirements and plant shall be purchased exclusively from British manufacturers so far as British manufacturers are able to supply the same, these requirements being upwards of £250,000 per annum.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): It is not open to me now to modify in any respect the Agreement which has been signed subject to the veto of Parliament.

London Postal Boundaries.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will consider the desirability of readjusting the boundaries of the districts served by the various head offices and sub-offices in London in such manner that the whole of each metropolitan borough may be served from the same head office, and from such number of sub-offices dealing only with that metropolitan borough as its size may require.

Lord STANLEY: I regret that it would not be practicable to adopt the suggestion of the hon. Member, as it would necessitate a complete remodelling of the whole postal organisation of London without procuring any acceleration in the delivery of letters. The question was raised in 1903 by the Council of Metropolitan Mayors, and was fully considered by my predecessor, who arrived at the same conclusion.

Electrified Railways—Precautions at Level Crossings.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state the number of level crossings on the electrified portion of the Lancashire and Yorkshire and North Eastern Railways, and the nature of the steps taken to warn and protect the public from accidents through contact with the electrically charged rail.

The SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars): On the electrically equipped portion of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway there are nineteen public and thirty-three private level crossings, and on the similar portion of the North Eastern Railway the numbers are eighteen and twenty-nine. Both railway companies have informed me that the electric current is not carried over the crossings by means of a charged rail but by a cable connecting with the live rail on either side of the crossing, and the ends of the rail are protected with non-conducting material. The companies also state that warning boards are fixed at the crossings.

Mr. WEIR: Does this apply to both public and private crossings?

Mr. BONAR LAW: Yes.

Wireless Telegraphy—Communication with Lightships.

Major SEELY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether arrangements are yet completed for connecting the six specified lightships with the shore by wireless telegraphy for life-saving purposes.

Mr. BONAR LAW: No, Sir, but I am glad to say that the agreement with the Marconi Company, which has involved the consideration of many difficult points of principle and detail, is nearing completion.

Sugar Duties—Customs Inspection of the Refineries.

Mr. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the effect of the regulations under the Sugar Convention and sugar duties has been to drive out of business as sugar refiners comparatively small works which cannot afford to pay for at least two Customs officers to attend at their works, and that Messrs. Criddle & Co., of Liverpool, have closed their refinery; will he say whether similar regulations are now about to come into force with respect to the golden syrup business; and, if so, whether the Department will favourably consider some alteration of the regulations referred to.

Mr. BONAR LAW: Sugar refineries are supervised by the Crown free of charge, and no refiner can therefore have been driven out of business because of the expense entailed by the attendance of Customs officers. No regulations are about to come into force with respect to the syrup business.

Holborn Municipal Irregularities.

MR. SLACK (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the irregularities in the municipal government of the metropolitan borough of Holborn, and whether, although a committee of inquiry has been appointed by the borough council, the Local Government Board will be prepared to investigate and conduct a public inquiry into a matter of such great and general public interest.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am aware of the irregularities in the accounts of some of the officers of the borough council, and I have seen the reports of the district auditor on the subject. The audit is still proceeding, and at the present time I have no authority to direct an inquiry in relation to the irregularities referred to.

MR. SLACK: Is it possible to arrange that two or three representatives of the Local Government Board should take part in the inquiry now proceeding?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: If the borough council make application to that effect I shall be glad to consider it.

Ventilation of the House of Commons.

COLONEL WYNDHAM MURRAY (Bath): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, when the new works for improving the ventilation of the House of Commons are likely to be completed.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): It is anticipated that the works recommended by the Select Committee will be completed by Easter; but experimental tests which are being continued may possibly necessitate further minor improvements.

Abingdon Street Improvement.

SIR JOHN ROLLESTON (Leicester): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if he will explain the proposed purchase of a house in Abingdon Street for £10,000, as provided in the Estimates for 1905–6.

LORD BALCARRES: The arrangement with the County Council will be understood if my hon. friend will refer to Section 8, Sub-sections 9 to 12, of the London County Council Improvements Act, 1900, together with the deposited signed plan referred to in the section. For the widening of Abingdon Street at its northern end, the front portions, at least, of the five houses at the top of the street have to be removed; No. 29 is the fourth of these, and the only one not already belonging to Government. The acquisition of the site, minus the small part thrown into the street, will complete a valuable block of property.

Non-Provided Schools—Religious Teaching and Teachers' Pay.

MR. WORSLEY-TAYLOR (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to a notice issued by the West Riding County Council to the managers of non-provided schools within their jurisdiction to the effect that, as from the 1st of May, they will deduct from the salaries of teachers in those schools such a proportionate sum as represents the time occupied by such teachers in giving denominational religious instruction; and, if so, whether the Board of Education will take steps to protect the managers and teachers of such schools against this action.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): I have seen the notice in question. The Board have been in communication with the local authority and with managers of voluntary schools on the subject of this notice, and have informed them that the Board are advised that the action contemplated by the local education authority contravenes the provisions of the Education Act, 1902, and that managers are not bound to comply with the instructions conveyed in the notice.

Somerset House Records.

COLONEL WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can see his way to transferring from Somerset House to the Public Record Office all wills proved before 1700, to enable students to refer to them without fee; if not, whether he will make arrangements at Somerset House, so that those early wills can be consulted under rules, as at the Record Office, by all students free of charge.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): I would refer my hon. and gallant friend to the Answer given on this subject by my predecessor on June 18th, 1903.† I understand that visitors are allowed without fee to search the calendars of the wills proved at a time not less than 100 years prior to the search being made.

Scottish Congested Districts—Trade Apprenticeships for Boys.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether the invitation of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland to assist in the maintenance of twenty boys from congested districts desirous of being apprenticed to trades has been responded to; and, if so, will he state from what parishes applications have been received, and the number from each parish.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): Applications have been received as follows:—from the parishes of Barra, 13; South Uist, 3; North Uist, 3; Harris, 2; Stornoway, 8; Lochs, 8; Barvas, 4; Portree, 4; Bracadale, 1; Applecross, 8; Gairloch, 2; Assynt, 1; Lairg, 1; South Ronaldshay, 1; Bressay, 1. Total, 60 for boys.

Ross and Inverness Medical Officer of Health.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether, in the event of a medical officer of health being appointed for the mainland of the counties of Ross and Cromarty and Inverness, will arrangements be made that such officer shall devote the whole of his time to the duties of his office, and not engage in private practice.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: This matter is engaging the attention of the Secretary for Scotland, but he cannot undertake to give any definite promise on the subject.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that it is the practice all over the country—in both England and Wales—that no medical officer shall engage in either private or consultative practice?

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I am not.

Congested Districts (Scotland) Amendment Bill.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state when he proposes to introduce the Congested Districts (Scotland) Amendment Bill.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I propose to introduce this Bill without delay.

Grants to Evicted Tenants.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of an evicted tenant restored to his farm in which he made an application to the Estates Commissioners for a grant of money to restock his land and rebuild his houses, which was refused because the arrangement for reinstatement and sale was made between the landlord and tenant and carried out by the Land Commission rather than through the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, whether he will take steps to secure that advances shall be made for this purpose.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): This case cannot be identified upon the information given. If the hon. Member will supply me with the name of the evicted tenant and date of his application I shall be pleased to make further inquiry.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxiii., 1295.

Belfast Revaluation.

Mr. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the recent revaluation of Belfast does not include that of a number of hereditaments estimated at a value of so much as £100,000; whether he informed a deputation from Belfast City Council some time since, that a Bill to repair the effects of this omission had been drafted by direction of the Commissioner of Valuation; and, if so, what are the intentions of the Government in regard to that measure; and whether, pending the rectification of the omission referred to, if such omission has occurred, he will take steps to prevent the partial revaluation of Belfast becoming operative.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): A draft Bill has been prepared by the Commissioner of Valuation, and will immediately receive the attention of my right hon. friend. I cannot state the precise day on which it will be introduced. I see no reason at present to suspend the coming into force of the general revaluation pending the passing of the Bill, but I will communicate with the Commissioner on the subject.

Mr. CLANCY: Does not the intention to introduce the Bill prove the existing injustice. Ought not the partial revaluation to be suspended?

Mr. ATKINSON: No, Sir.

Cooscroum Fishing Industry.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the necessity for an improvement of the facilities for landing fishing boats at Cooscroum, county Kerry, the Congested Districts Board will agree to act in accordance with the suggestions unanimously put forward by the local authorities, pending the provision of a permanent slip.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The question of effecting further improvements at this place will be considered by the Board at their meeting next month.

Irish Constabulary—Marriage Regulations.

Mr. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is the practice in the Irish Constabulary to permit a married constable to remain in the district to which his wife belongs; whether he is aware that Sergeant Sullivan, of Dunshaughlen, married some months ago the daughter of a publican in Skryne, which is in Sullivan's district; and whether, in the interest of the due observance of the licence laws, Sullivan will be removed to another county.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The reply to the first inquiry is in the negative. The sergeant was necessarily retained at his present station on special duty which is about to terminate, when he will be removed to another county.

Irish National School Teachers and Science Training.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number of teachers at present employed in the national schools who have received no training in elementary science either from the Board's organisers or in the training colleges; the number who have not been trained in the full course of instruction laid down by the Commissioners for the pupils in the schools; the number of schools which have not yet received equipment grants of apparatus and in which therefore no science teaching has yet been commenced; a list of suitable centres in which no organisers' classes for teachers have yet been held, and in which, in the opinion of the Commissioners of National Education and their expert advisers, it is desirable to have continuation or revision courses of instruction.

Mr. HAYDEN: I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the teachers trained in the organisers' preliminary courses have not been given as extensive a knowledge of the subject as is, according to the Board's official programme, expected from their sixth and seventh-standard pupils; and that only the 500 teachers admitted to the Part II. course have yet been given such knowledge; and, seeing that it was the intention of the Commissioners that the vast majority of the teachers should be admitted to this Part II. course, whether provision will be made for having this intention carried into effect as well as for training the teachers who have not yet been admitted to any course and have already been through the training colleges.

MR. WALTER LONG: The number of teachers employed in national schools is about 12,000, and, of these, 5,829 have not received any training in elementary science, and 1,897 have been trained in part of the course only. 7,195 schools have not yet received equipment grants of scientific apparatus but, as stated by me yesterday,† provision has been made in the Estimates for the continuance of these grants. The Commissioners have arranged with the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for the training of teachers in elementary science at local technical schools, and the necessary financial provision has been made for the travelling expenses of the teachers who may receive such training during the coming year.

Report of the Head Organiser of Science Teaching in Ireland.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the opinion of the Commissioners of National Education that there is no reason to anticipate that the progress of science teaching in the schools will diminish owing to the reduction in numbers of the organising staff; and whether he will lay before the House the last (1904) Report of the Inspector and Head Organiser of Science Instruction, who is immediately responsible for the progress of science teaching in the schools; whether he will state the approximate annual sum, over and above that already placed upon the Estimates, which would be necessary to permit of the organisers' classes being continued as heretofore; and whether, in order that the organising work which has been practically only well begun may be carried on, he will recommend that the necessary funds be provided.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Report of the Head Organiser for 1904 will be published with the Board's Annual Report for that year. There is no intention of continuing the employment of sub-organisers after the 31st instant, which would involve an additional expenditure of £4,500 a year.

Extra Subjects and Attendance Calculations in Irish Schools.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether the regulations *re* extra subjects included in the circular to inspectors, and to which attention was drawn last year, have since been withdrawn; whether he is aware of the dissatisfaction that has been created throughout Ireland by the system of calculating attendances for extra subjects followed by some of the National Board inspectors; and, if so, whether the National Board intend to take up the matter and have it settled at once.

MR. WALTER LONG: Neither of the circulars referred to has been withdrawn. In some few cases managers of schools have objected to the methods adopted in the calculation of attendances at extra subject classes. In such cases explanations were sent to the managers. No further action is contemplated by the National Board.

Darby's Point Pier, Achill Island.

DR. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that the survey for the extension of Darby's Point Pier at Achill Island, county Mayo, for which the Board passed a vote at their meeting in November last, was made on various dates between January 23rd and February 7th, he will explain why the Secretary of the Congested Districts Board (Ireland) in a letter dated March 2nd and addressed to the hon. Member for Mayo West, stated that the survey was not yet made

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† See page 461.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Secretary to the Board was not in possession of the information mentioned in the first part of the Question until the 8th instant, when the engineer's report was received. Hence his letter of the 2nd instant.

Belfast Revaluation.

Mr. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the recent revaluation of Belfast, public-houses have been valued on a different principle from that adopted in the case of other business establishments, the value of the licences being taken into account in the one case and the volume of business done not being taken into account in the other; and, if so, whether, in view of the fact that the recent decision of the Court of Appeal in Ireland in the case of Armstrong *v.* the Commissioner of Valuation was to the effect that the volume of business should in all cases be taken into account, the revaluation of Belfast will be allowed to become operative till all business houses are valued on the same principle.

Mr. WALTER LONG: My right hon. and learned friend replied to a precisely similar Question on the 7th instant.[†]

Mr. CLANCY: No, Sir, the Question was not identical to this.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I understand it was to the same effect and that my right hon. friend's Answer covered the whole ground. If the hon. Gentleman thinks otherwise and will put down another Question I shall be happy to consider if I can give any further Answer.

Irish Agricultural Department—Catholic Clerks.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the chief clerk of the Agricultural Department acted wholly on his own initiative in sending for one of the Catholic clerks of the veterinary branch and suggesting to him that he should withdraw from the written representations which that clerk and other Catholic gentlemen of the branch had laid before the Department in May last; and, if not, can he state definitely the name of the administrative official under whose authority such action was taken.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The first part of this Question was answered by my right hon. friend on the 1st instant.[‡]

Iveagh-Pirrie Motor Scheme.

Mr. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a petition was forwarded from Clonaslee, Queen's County, to Mr. Pirrie, asking that the Iveagh-Pirrie motor scheme should be put into operation in the district; and whether he can say what is the reason of the delay in acceding to this request.[‡]

Mr. WALTER LONG: I have no information as to the petition in question, which is one entirely for the promoters of the scheme to deal with. The suggested service is not one of those originally contemplated.

New College of Science in Dublin.

Mr. CLANCY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any instructions have been given to the architects to provide for the use of Irish materials in the construction of the new College of Science in Dublin; whether, if such instructions have been issued, it has been intimated therein, or in any other document, by those in authority, that full opportunity of tendering should be given to all Irish quarry owners; and, in view of the fact that Portland stone used only a few years ago in parts of the museum buildings in Dublin has weathered badly, and has already shown symptons of premature decay, any precaution has been taken against the use of that material in the proposed building in the same locality.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I do not consider it will be advisable to place restrictions upon the contractor as to the source of his supply of materials, but the utmost care will be taken that whatever stone is selected shall be of the best quality.

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 585.

[‡] See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 27.

MR. CLANCY: Then am I to understand that the promise made last year that Irish materials should be used as far as possible is to be broken?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: No, Sir.

Imperial Committee of Defence.

COLONEL WELBY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of proposing an addition to the Imperial Committee of Defence, in equal numbers to political members now of it, of members of the Opposition who have held office in the Departments of the Admiralty, War Office, Colonies, or India, with a view to non-Party union in laying down and carrying out continuous principles of defence by sea and land.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): In answer to my hon. and gallant friend, I must say that in my judgment no mechanical arrangement will secure the absence of Party in dealing with any great question. There are questions which are dealt with without partisanship, but that is due to the good feeling and patriotism of hon. Members on both sides of the House. But there is no way of securing that, and it would not be secured by the particular machinery which my hon. friend's Question provides. There is another point to which I would call attention. It is this. Continuity of foreign policy has intrinsic advantages altogether apart from the nature of the policy which is continuous. I mean it is a positive, though sometimes a necessary, evil for one Government to reverse the foreign policy of its predecessors. I do not think that is the case with regard to defence. I think each Government, during the course of its tenure of office, has nothing whatever to think of except the actual merits of the case before it. The only way to secure continuity is that there should be a common view as to what the merits of the particular question are. We have secured that, as far as it can be secured, under the existing system of the Committee of Defence by keeping records fairly ample of the conclusions at which we have arrived, and the grounds on which we arrived at them. These records will be in the hands of our successors, and if they are convincing we shall have continuity of policy; if they are not convincing no arrangement of membership of the nature proposed will produce that result. On the whole, therefore, I do not think it would be desirable to introduce so anomalous an addition, so strange to the ordinary arrangement of a body more or less responsible for giving advice to the Cabinet, which would contain not only members of the Cabinet, but members violently opposed to it. I am not disposed in these circumstances to accede to my hon. and gallant friend's suggestion.

Home Defence Requirements.

COLONEL WELBY: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Imperial Committee of Defence has modified, and, if so, by what numbers, the estimate dated May 11th, 1903, laid before the Royal Commission on the Militia and Volunteers by the War Office, that the total number of troops required for Home defence is, Defensive Garrisons, 150,000; Mobile Force, England, 120,000; Mobile Force, Ireland, 30,000; Cadres of Depôts and Training Units, 30,000; Total, 330,000.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The figures to which my hon. friend refers, and which were supplied to the Royal Commission, were not authoritative, and the Commission were informed that they were not authoritative. Personally I should myself dissent from them.

Sittings of the House—Hour of Meeting

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, for the convenience of Members generally, His Majesty's Government will propose an Amendment of the Standing Order (Sittings of the House) that will provide that the House shall meet at 2.30 o'clock, and that Questions shall begin at 2.45 o'clock.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The change in our rules which my hon. friend, following the example of many hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House, has from time to time suggested, would be, I believe, a convenience to a large number of Members, and certainly a very great convenience to His Majesty's Government. I suppose there are no Members to whom the present rule is more inconvenient. I do not, however, propose to make any suggestions at the present time for the alteration of the rule. The disadvantage of making an alteration is clear. You will diminish by an appreciable fraction the most important period for our discussions. It is the afternoon sitting which is the most important portion of the day. I think it would be a serious thing to diminish that by the amount of time suggested by my hon. friend; and though, on full consideration, the House might come to a decision that a change should be made, and though I do not oppose it on principle, I do not intend at present to put any suggestion on the Paper to carry it out.

Standing Orders.

SIR RICHARD JEBB (Cambridge University): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is proposed, and, if so, when, to complete the terms of the Standing Order (Order in the House), and to resume the discussion of that Order which was adjourned on 13th February, 1902.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I should be glad to have an opportunity to resume and complete the consideration of the rules, but my hon. friend will readily understand that there is more important business before the House at present, and I am hardly in a position to state when it will be possible to take up this half accomplished task.

Re-election of Ministers.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether it is the intention of the Government to proceed this session with the Bill for removing the necessity for re-election in the case of acceptance of office by Members of the House of Commons.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The Bill to which my hon. friend refers is ready. Notice of it appeared in the King's Speech of last year. I adhere to the strong view which I have held for many years that the present rule as to re-election is inimical to the best interests of the country; and if I had any chance of passing the Bill without discussion I should be glad to do so, if not for our benefit, at all events for the benefit of our successors. I myself believe it is one of the most antiquated prejudices which induces us to stick to this rule, and I am convinced many years will not elapse before, by common consent, it is abolished.

STANDING COMMITTEES.

Ordered, That all Standing Committees have leave to print and circulate with the Votes the Minutes of their Proceedings and any amended Clauses of Bills committed to them.—(*Mr. John Ellis.*)

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure:—Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas, Mr. Solicitor-General, and Sir James Heath; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Attorney-General, Mr. Bonar Law, and Mr. Morrison.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes," presented by Mr. Nannetti; supported by Captain Norton, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Field, and Sir J. Fortescue Flannery; to be read a second time upon Monday, April 10th, and to be printed. [Bill 111.]

PLACES OF WORSHIP (SITES) BILL.

"To give further facilities for the acquisition of sites for Places of Worship," presented by Mr. Herbert Lewis; supported by Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Lloyd-George, Mr. Perks, Mr. Compton Rickett, and Mr. Whitley; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 112.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1904-5.

Class III.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other Legal Proceedings."

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item BB (Criminal Prosecutions not undertaken by the Director of Public Prosecutions) be reduced by £200."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) was surprised that the hon. Member had given no explanation of the object of the Amendment.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I gave it on the last occasion.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY said it did not follow that hon. Members now present were in the House when the question was last discussed, and they ought not to be asked to vote without being informed of the reasons why the reduction was proposed. He assumed that it was in connection with the Whitaker Wright prosecution. Now he was one of those who did not agree with the view of the Attorney-General in the matter of that prosecution, but in the end it turned out that he was right, for Whitaker Wright was convicted. But all men, even the Attorney-General, were liable to make mistakes, and because one might have been made in this case, he did not consider it a sufficient reason for moving a reduction of the hon. and learned Gentleman's salary. The point at issue between them, it would be in the recollection of the House, was as to the object of the issue of false balance-sheets, their contention being that by such issue money was obtained by false pretences and great misery caused. Therefore, that was an offence punishable by law. But the Attorney-General took the view that there was no evidence to prove that the publication of the false balance-sheets enabled Whitaker Wright to obtain money or caused any one to lose it, and it was on that ground that the hon. and learned Gentleman based his opinion that the Government ought not to prosecute. That, he believed, was the wrong view. But then the hon. and learned Gentleman was not perhaps aware that numerous people would have sold their shares had it not been for the issue of the balance-sheets, and others bought shares on the strength of them, thus being undoubtedly defrauded of their money by a false pretence. No doubt the hon. and learned Gentleman was animated by the desire, which so often animated lawyers and other people, to be certain of success before taking action, and there was something to be said for that point of view. It was suggested that those who suffered by reason of the failure of the London and Globe Finance Corporation should themselves have taken action. As a matter of fact they did so and events justified their policy. But that was no ground for suggesting that the Attorney-General was not capable of fulfilling the duties of his office, which, he assumed, was the object of the Motion. As he understood it the Government had done the right thing, and paid the costs of those who instituted the prosecution. When one once got in the hands of the law there was no telling what might happen.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.): I rise to a point of order. The Motion before the House is for the reduction of the Vote. The hon. Member does not seem to be speaking to that question or to be making any remarks bearing upon the reduction.

*THE CHAIRMAN: There are two questions really before the Committee, the reduction of the Vote and the payment of the whole sum. The remarks of the hon. Member related to the payment of these prosecution expenses. I think that is relevant; it is the line on which the debate proceeded the other night.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): And it occupied two hours.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY: I do not intend to occupy the time of the Committee any longer.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Canarvon Boroughs): Oh, go on, there is the closure at half-past five.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I do not think I have ever in my experience of this House been present at a more gross obstruction and wasting of public time.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) rose, but Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN remained standing.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member, I understand, rises to a point of order.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY: Yes, Sir. I wish to ask, Mr. Chairman, on a point of order, whether the right hon. Gentleman is speaking to the reduction or to the Vote.

*THE CHAIRMAN: He was speaking to neither; the right hon. Gentleman was referring to the course of the present debate.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: What has happened with regard to this question of the Whitaker Wright prosecution is this. It was discussed at quite sufficient length on the previous occasion. The Committee was then ready to divide, but it was arranged that it should be adjourned in order that the Secretary to the Treasury should convey some information which the House desired to possess. It was on that small point that the adjournment was agreed to, and now the Government, having taken from us all our public time, except from a quarter-past three to half-past five, deliberately encourage one of their supporters to occupy a large part of that reduced time. There are other items in this Vote which require discussion, and this is the way in which they connive at—[Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Organise, Organise,]—yes, organise, the employment of the reduced time which they have left to a muzzled House of Commons.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): I think the right hon. Gentleman cannot possibly have been present on the last occasion, or he would recollect that this was discussed at considerable length, and it was on his side of the House that a determination was expressed to have more time for the discussion. A Motion was made to report Progress, and owing to its being very nearly twelve o'clock it was obviously useless to resist that Motion, and it was acquiesced in. There was no such arrangement as that which the right hon. Gentleman alleges [OPPOSITION cries of "Yes, there was"]; and all hon. Gentlemen present will agree with what I say. [Cries of "No, no! We were present the whole time."]

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Look what has happened since that time. We have now the guillotine.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: That does not alter what took place, not even the guillotine can alter what has passed. I have no desire to stand between the House and the division, although no reason was given by the mover for the reduction.

MR. LOUGH: It has already been given.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: In compliance with what appeared to be the general desire of the House, the Treasury said they would pay the costs of this prosecution. Now a Motion is made that £200 be taken out of the pockets of those who had conducted this prosecution. [MINISTERIAL cheers.] I could have understood it if it had been a Motion to reduce the salary of the Law Officers.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): That will come in time.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: Having regard to the reasons—the very odd reasons given for this Motion, may I be allowed to say one word. What I had to determine was whether the name of the Director of Public Prosecutions should be given to the prosecution of Whitaker Wright; I had to form my opinion on the materials before me to the best of my judgment, and the conclusion that I arrived at was that it would not be proper to do so. I am not going at length into my reasons; they related to the construction of a section of the Larceny Act, and, on the materials before me, I came to the conclusion that Whitaker Wright in issuing that most misleading balance-sheet did not do so for the purpose of deceiving or defrauding the shareholders or creditors; on the contrary, that it was for the purpose of benefiting them by carrying through an arrangement, a most improper one in my judgment, but one which did not seem to come within a breach of the criminal law. I stated my reasons more than a year ago on the Address, and I think the House was generally satisfied on the subject; at all events, a notice of Motion given on it was not prosecuted by the mover.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: It was closured.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: There was an opportunity.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: No, there was not.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I think the hon. Member is mistaken.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: No, I am not.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: At any rate no attempt was made to move it.

MR. LAMBERT: It was closured.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I will not allow this to pass. My recollection is perfectly distinct.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to interrupt in this way. If he wishes to correct the Attorney-General he will have an opportunity of doing that afterwards.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I am sure the Attorney-General's sense of courtesy will allow his recollection to be revived. What occurred was this: the hon. Member for South Molton had an Amendment down to the Address in reference to this Whitaker Wright prosecution; but before it was arrived at an hon. Member was put up to ask the Attorney-General a Question; we got his *ex parte* statement, and the Amendment was never moved.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I may remind the hon. Member that the fact that a Question was asked and a statement made did not in the slightest degree prevent the Amendment being moved.

MR. LAMBERT: It was closured.

SIR ROBERT FINLAY: I am not going to argue the matter. I only ask hon. Gentlemen who really wish to inform their minds to read my statement. I only wish to make one further observation of a general character. Whatever may be the opinion of any hon. Member with regard to any particular case, I think all will agree that it is one of the most important things in this country that in the very difficult and arduous and delicate task of deciding whether the Director of Public Prosecutions should take up a case, the Attorney-General, upon whom the responsibility rests, should exercise his judgment freely, independently, and without fear or favour, and I do ask hon. Gentlemen opposite whether the line a few, a very few, of them are disposed to take in this matter is calculated to ensure the continuance of that system under which in this matter we have lived hitherto. If on every occasion the Attorney-General is thought to have done wrong his conduct is to be the subject of public censure in this House, do hon. Gentlemen think that will be conducive to the welfare of this country? As long as I hold this office, and I speak for every member of the Bar who occupies it after me, the duty of the Attorney-General in this particular matter will be to act with a sole eye to the public service, and with a sole eye to see whether every particular case is one proper to be taken up by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) said the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition had charged them with wasting the time of the House, but what did he think of the action of his followers in thus, without explanation, impugning the action of the Attorney-General?

MR. LOUGH: The matter was fully discussed on the last occasion.

MR. BOND: When most hon. Members now present were not in the House. He thought the Motion of the hon. Member opposite, particularly having regard to the contemptuous way in which it was moved, was an abuse of the forms of the House. The moving of such a Motion, in order to bring a railing accusation against the Attorney-General—a Motion in which, in fact, there was no substance—was as gross a waste of the time of the House as anything that might be done on his side of the House by way of meeting a rather discreditable manœuvre. After all, it did not follow that the opinion given by the Attorney-General was wrong. All men were fallible, even Judges, and it was a matter of notoriety that the ruling of the Judge as to the applicability to the case of the Larceny Act had not passed unquestioned. Therefore it was not by any means clear that the opinion of the Attorney-General was really wrong.

Question put

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 173; Noes, 237. (Division List No. 68.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Broadhust, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Edwards, Frank
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain, F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morley, Rt Hon. John (Montrose)
Moss Samuel
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N)
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton

Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj J.E.B.(Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R(Northants.
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theordore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd)
Young, Samuel,
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Lough and Mr. Herbert Lewis.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn. Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W(Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John.
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin, Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
FitzRoy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.)
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'derry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords. N W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield. Brightside)
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Faversh'm
Haword, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks. NR
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson, Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W.
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hon. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J. (Walthamsto'
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald

Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharpe
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, S. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, H C. (North'mb. Tynesid'
Smith, Rt Hn J. Parker (Lanarks)
Smith. Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C E H (Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Original Question again proposed.

*MR. LOUGH thought the sum of money proposed to be granted as compensation to Mr. Adolf Beck deserved the attention of the House. He believed these cases of arrest, wrongful imprisonment, and unfairly conducted trials were not nearly so rare as a great many people believed. He thought that the conduct of the police in this particular case required the attention of the Home Secretary. In the case of this unfortunate man he was found to be innocent of all the charges made against him, and for many years he suffered the most tremendous persecution. He felt that the police were greatly to blame because they arrested this man upon very inadequate evidence. There was too much disposition on the part of the police to arrest anybody without reliable evidence, trusting that something would turn up afterwards. The police arrested Mr. Beck on the statement of a woman, and he was arrested and kept in confinement while an attempt was made to get up a case against him. There had been other notorious cases in London recently, and he was surprised at the number of cases within six months in which arrests were made and the accused detained without a scrap of evidence made against them. In this instance the evidence produced was of such a character that the police ought to have received it with the greatest caution. A number of women who had suffered grevious wrongs were brought to see Mr. Beck, and they were naturally anxious to pick out the man who had injured and robbed them. Of these women only about one half identified Mr. Beck, but the police did not seem to have taken warning from that fact. He believed that prisoners were far too lightly cast into prison, often without any evidence and on slight suspicion. If Mr. Beck had been left at large for a week or two he would have found it difficult to get away, and if more leisure had been shown by the police in going about this matter there would have been no detriment to the carrying out of the law.

When they came to the conduct of criminal prosecutions he thought there was much ground for complaint. The case passed rapidly out of the hands of the police, and he thought the prosecution was proceeded with in a way which showed a determination to secure a conviction. He had blamed the police for the avidity with which they swallowed everything the women who accused Mr. Beck said to them. But how much more blameworthy were the solicitors, counsel, and especially the

Crown prosecutor, who ought to have been specially careful to avoid irregularity. It seemed to him that when the Crown prosecutor did get charge of the case he did not proceed with due regard to the maxim that the prisoner should have the benefit of the doubt. Evidence was brought forward in the early stages of the case which was found to be of a shaky character. At the police Court it was assumed all along that Mr. Beck was the same as Smith who committed similar crimes fifteen or twenty years ago. There was considerable prejudice created against the man at the commencement of the trial through that assumption on the part of the police. Afterwards the prosecutor began to have some doubts, and he did not give the evidence which he had intended to bring. Mr. Beck's solicitor asked for the production of proof that Mr. Beck was the same man as Smith. Why was not that assistance given to the defending counsel? Should not the object of the Crown prosecutor be to arrive at the truth rather than to convict the prisoner? The whole proceedings were carried out with the idea of obtaining a conviction, as if counsel and solicitors had some inducement, perhaps, to get promotion or credit by securing a conviction rather than by actually getting at the facts of the case.

There was great reason for complaint as to the manner in which the case was carried on when it finally came before the Judge. When it was found that the defence was going to bring out that Mr. Beck was not the same man as Smith, the prosecution refused to bring out at the trial the evidence which was used in the police Court. The Judge decided that it was irrelevant to the issue. This proved a very embarrassing proceeding for Mr. Beck's counsel, and the result was that a conviction was secured. No one could look at the difficulties with which the defendant had to contend without feeling that perfectly innocent persons might have false charges brought against them. If this House could do anything to protect others from being placed in equally difficult circumstances it ought to be done. When Mr. Beck was sent to prison he commenced sending petitions to the Home Office. One came after another, and it was not until about half-a-dozen had been sent that any attention whatever was given to them. In these petitions Mr. Beck made it clear that there was absolute proof that he could not be Smith who was accused of the crime on a former occasion. Mr. Beck also ascertained that the prison authorities were well convinced of that fact. He really thought that when circumstances of the greatest gravity were brought to the notice of the Home Office they ought to be carefully inquired into. Even then the Home Office tried to sustain the action of the prosecution. When they got information about Smith's identification marks it was sent to the Judge. He did not propose to comment on the action of the Judge. It was the system he wanted to direct attention to. The action of the Home Office was absolutely callous. The prison authorities were not told that the evidence was wrong or anything of that kind. The Judge admitted at the close of his long argumentative letter that the identification marks of Smith proved that he was not the same man. The Judge attached very great importance to the identification marks. What did the Home Office do? The Home Office said, "Sweep away this evidence, blot out the record of the identification marks, give the prisoner we have now got hold of a new number and then all will be right." And so this unfortunate man had to endure a long term of imprisonment. Finally he was released, and the astounding thing was that the same course of events began again. The police again arrested him on doubtful evidence, and again the trial was much the same from the first. Some feeling of doubt had commenced now to get into the mind of the prosecutor, but finally this unfortunate man was committed once more. The remarkable thing in this long course of injustice was that the prosecutor, the Home Office, the police, and the prison authorities did not make the slightest movement in the direction of discovering the truth. It was not until the end of eight years that the mistakes which these great departments had been making were disclosed to the public.

He did not think there could be a case which could reflect more seriously on the criminal procedure of this country. There were some features of the inquiry which was held at the instance of the Government to which the most serious attention of the House ought to be directed. Mr. Beck who was absolutely innocent had been "pardoned." What had he done that he had to be pardoned? It was not Mr. Beck who required to be pardoned. It was the Home Office, the police, and the Crown prosecutor who required pardon. He wished to know whether any change was going to be made in the criminal law in order to prevent such miscarriages of justice. In answer to a Question which he recently asked the Prime Minister he got the unsympathetic Answer that cases of this kind were extremely rare. He did not believe they were rare. He had heard of a good many cases himself, and he had no doubt that hon. Members connected with the legal profession had heard of many of these cases. The inquiry had been most satisfactory in so far as the bringing out of the facts was concerned, but the result arrived at up to the present had been of the most inadequate character. Four recommendations had been made by the Committee of Inquiry. They refrained from recommending that there should be a Court of Appeal. That was a matter that should be inquired into more fully. He did not think that an effective remedy would be obtained for such miscarriages of justice unless a Court of Criminal Appeal was set up. The Inquiry Committee recommended that there should be a means of referring to a superior Court on points of law. He had tried to study the Bill introduced by the Government in another place, but he was not sure that it would be effective for the purpose. The Committee also recommended that there should be more co-ordination of the departments connected with the Home Office. He wished to hear from the Home Secretary whether anything was being done in regard to that.

The whole of the evidence in this case had produced on his mind the painful impression that people were not nearly so safe from the possibility of arrest and cruel treatment in this country as they had thought. Whenever any charge was made against a man, either criminal or civil, he was often placed in the most difficult position, with few friends about him. The facts of this case showed that a perfectly innocent man might be placed in these difficult circumstances. It was the duty of the House to protect the innocent. The passion for conviction by the police and the Crown prosecutors, and the refusal of assistance to the defence, struck him as most lamentable. It was better that a thousand guilty persons should be set free than that one innocent person should be unjustly convicted and sent to prison. Although it might be said by the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary that if he moved the reduction of the Vote by £100 that, if successful, would only deprive Mr. Beck of that amount of the proposed indemnity; still it was the only way in which they could bring the case under review, and he moved accordingly that the amount of the Vote be reduced by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Item BBB (Compensations for Wrongful Imprisonment) be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

Sir ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said he agreed with his hon. friend that the Report of the Committee on Mr. Beck's case was not pleasant reading to those interested in the administration of justice in this country. Very few of those spoken of in the Report came out of the inquiry satisfactorily. Certainly many of the witnesses had lamentably distinguished themselves, and among them the class of experts in hand-writing. The Home Office was, he thought, from time to time, clearly put on its guard. The officials of that Department ought to have made much earlier inquiry and representations, which would probably have led to the discovery of this great miscarriage of justice. Even those responsible for the conduct of the case in Court, both for the prosecution and the defence, and even the Judges, seemed not to be free from our doubts as to the wisdom of the proceedings in a matter affecting the liberty of the subject and the administration of justice. But he could not go with his hon. friend when he made such strong reflections on the police. The reflections in the Committee's Report were made not on the police but on other officials, and it was largely due to an intelligent police officer and not to others that justice was ultimately done. The Report as a whole certainly demanded grave consideration, and he agreed it ought to lead to some improvement in the law itself, apart from the administration of the law. The principal charge was that of obtaining jewellery from women under false pretences; but there was another charge, that of a previous conviction. Such was the irony of the case, that it was probably out of consideration for the prisoner that the second charge was not proceeded with. If it had been, and proof demanded, probably justice would have been done, for one physical fact would have been conclusive. He could not help thinking that those who were responsible for the absence of the fullest consideration of the charge of previous conviction were highly reprehensible. He thought there was often too great a disposition to take a charge of that description as proved without serious investigation. In this case, if there had been more full inquiry, probably justice instead of injustice would have been done.

Another sad reflection was that such a double miscarriage of justice should have occurred in the case of the life of one single person; whereas one would have thought that such an event could hardly have happened at all, even as an accidental coincidence. He would not carry his observations on that point further; but he urged that it was a most serious matter that for nine or ten years, including police supervision, a man marred of every prospect of life, should have been severely punished personally, and should have been robbed of his reputation. Such events gave some misgiving whether the percentage of cases of injustice, even in these days of high civilisation, was quite as low as it should be. He thought the Committee was indebted to his hon. friend for suggesting the matter for consideration and personally he was of opinion that there should be something in the way of a rehearing other than that provided under our existing judicial system; and he had himself brought in Bills to effect that object some two or three years ago, and long before this case. He could not help thinking that his hon. friend was well advised when he said that, when Mr. Beck was undergoing imprisonment, when the mark of previous conviction was attached to him, and when that was shown not to have been proved, the Home Office, instead of merely removing the sign of previous conviction, should have made investigation to see whether Mr. Beck ought to have been convicted of the charge at all. He hoped the Home Secretary would take care that such measures were adopted as to prevent the possibility of any such similar occurrence in the future.

He wished to add a word from the personal point of view of Mr. Beck. Mr. Beck he did not know; but that Gentleman had had communicated to him one or two of the circumstances mentioned to the Committee. It seemed to him that Mr. Beck's personal injuries had not been adequately considered. The compensation originally offered was £2,000, and that was raised to £5,000, or more than doubled. That very alteration appeared to him—with the same materials before the Home Office on both occasions—to show a degree of latitude and doubt on the part of the Home Office which left room for further consideration still. He submitted that if there was, as he believed, truth in the circumstances of the case placed before the Home Secretary by Mr. Beck, by way of memorial, and that they were well founded, the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary should consider whether or not, in justice to Mr. Beck, he was not bound, at any rate, to appoint a Committee, either of this House or a Departmental Committee, which should look into the whole facts, and deal with them from quite a different point of view from that taken by the previous Committee. That previous Committee consisted of the most eminent men and made a most able Report, but they dealt with the question in its public and judicial aspects. There was, however, a personal and financial standpoint in relation to Mr. Beck which that Committee had not considered. He submitted that, though £5,000 might from one point of view be an adequate compensation, from another aspect it could be no adequate compensation; and no effort should be spared to do adequate justice to a man whose whole life had been ruined by the action of the State. There could be no more complete vindication of Mr. Beck's personal character than the Report of the Committee, so far as words could effect that. The Committee had declared that there was no shadow of foundation for any of the charges and no reason for supposing that Mr. Beck had any connection with them. But it had to be remembered that for nearly ten years Mr. Beck had suffered every possible ignominy, and that his financial losses had never been inquired into by the Committee at all. The right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary, should give consideration to that point. The public aspect of Mr. Beck's position and demands had been inquired into, but not the losses to him as an individual; and if there were any losses to this individual the House had a right to demand that these should also be compensated.

Mr. Beck was to receive under this Vote £5,000; but that gentleman assured him that owing to the expenses he had incurred in his defence he would actually receive no more than £3,000. Mr. Beck informed him that he had agreed to accept £5,000 simply as compensation for his personal injuries, the injustice done to him, and the suffering he had endured; but that his agreement did not cover anything in the shape of actual financial losses which he had sustained. The statement made to him was that at the time of Mr. Beck's apprehension and conviction he had large commercial interests, and interests in land and other properties of great, though possibly, speculative value. He had not only the promise, but the actual enjoyment, of a prosperous business career. Owing to Mr. Beck's incarceration, he understood that he had had to make great sacrifices, because many of his interests were, to a large extent, in Norway, and it was, therefore, impossible that he could manage those affairs from prison in this country. The right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary had the particulars of Mr. Beck's claims in that respect before him, amounting to many times the £5,000 proposed to be given him by this Vote, and he would like the right hon. Gentleman to consider them with the view of raising the amount due to Mr. Beck, or of allowing them to go before some impartial Committee for proof and consideration. He knew that his right hon. friend would possibly say that these were the mischances of life, incidents of even an advanced civilisation, the risk of which had to be taken by every individual citizen, and that £5,000 possibly equalled or exceeded any sum previously offered under such circumstances by this or any other country. But he held that Mr. Beck's case was essentially different from any other; he had endured two wrongful and unjust convictions against him in one life and his personal and commercial position was very different from that of any previous ordinary convict even wrongfully convicted. He hoped, under these circumstances, the House would have a sympathetic regard, not only to the question of the public rights which ought to be vindicated, but also to the individual rights of Mr. Beck. He ventured to say £5,000 was inadequate compensation bearing in mind the deductions that had to be made for the necessary expenses that Mr. Beck had been put to, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would see his way, even at this eleventh hour, to increase it, for such compensation was a first charge on our civilisation.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said he was not surprised that his hon. friend should have thought fit to raise this discussion. There was no more appalling experience than that an innocent man should be wrongly convicted and suffer punishment. The Government had been perfectly right, in the exceptional circumstances of this case, in proposing that some solatium, at any rate, should be given out of the Exchequer. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had rightly said that pecuniary compensation for such sufferings was impossible. He did not propose to enter on personal aspects of the case. He had no doubt the Government had carefully considered them. He desired, rather, to make one or two observations on the more general considerations of public policy which the case suggested. It was said, with a certain amount of truth, that such a case was not likely to recur. It involved, indeed, a conjunction of coincidences which might well be described as a real tragedy of error. They were not likely, it was said, to have two men whose handwriting was so similar and also who were in face so like one another that a number of witnesses, quite independently, swore to the identity of one, while apparently describing the other. But the improbability of a recurrence did not answer his plea. The fact that such a thing had occurred, and might possibly occur again, justified the contention that the whole of the machinery concerned should be exposed to due and vigilant scrutiny. He did not agree that any blame attached to the police. An impartial Committee, strongly constituted, had concluded that no shadow of blame attached to them. They did their duty, not only according to the ordinary standards, but with exceptional vigilance, and to them the ultimate establishment of Mr. Beck's innocence was largely due. They might, therefore, leave the police out of the case. The first mistake, indeed the mistake which was the origin of all the subsequent mistakes, the Committee said, was a mistake of the law on the part of the Judge. On that he expressed no opinion of his own. He was bound to accept the law laid down by authorities of so much weight. If there had not been, according to them, a misruling on the part of the Judge who presided at the trial, or if that misruling could have been set right by some tribunal competent to the task, the mischief would have been avoided. The inference to his mind was clear — and it was in favour of a conclusion at which he had arrived twenty years ago, and which had not in the least been shaken by administrative experience at the Home Office—there ought to be in this country, as in every other civilised country, some form of criminal appeal. He was not pretending for a moment to sketch out what the mode of procedure ought to be; but he welcomed as an instalment in that direction the recommendation of the Committee, which had been acted upon by the Government to make it compulsory on the part of a Judge, when a point of law was raised on a criminal trial, to state a case for the consideration of another Court.

But here he must part company with the Committee in so far as it suggested that the Home Office was guilty of some breach of duty in not setting that mistake of law right. In his opinion, and he could not state it too clearly, it was not the duty of the Home Office to deal with the state of the law. Mistakes in law were properly dealt with by a judicial tribunal; and the Home Office was bound to take the law as laid down at a trial by a Judge of the Superior Court, or of Assize or Central Criminal Court, upon the interpretation of a statute or the admissibility of evidence. The notion of setting up a Committee formed of a little body of selected lawyers to take to pieces the findings of Judges was a wholly impractical solution. Where were such gentlemen to come from? Were they to be Civil servants? Were they to be gentlemen called to the Bar or admitted as solicitors, and who, through no fault of their own, were without the practical experience which came from the main pursuit and business of their lives? What principle would be applied to the selection of half-a-dozen gentlemen to be entrusted with the duty of reviewing judicial decisions? He dismissed the suggestion as wholly impracticable. The original mistake was one of law, and in that he did not think the Home Office was to blame. Where he thought it was to blame was when it was discovered, as it was, after the unfortunate man had been two years in prison by evidence beyond all cavil, that his supposed identity with Smith, a person convicted of a similar offence, was disproved. When the identity of the two men was disproved by the new evidence the Home Office did right in forwarding that new evidence to the learned Judge who tried the case; and, seeing that the actual documents were forwarded, how the Judge could have treated it as other than official evidence, when if he had read it he would have seen that it was the official document of the prison authorities showing that one man was circumcised and the other was not, remained an unexplained mystery. Where the Home Office went wrong was when they acquiesced in the opinion of the learned Judge that, whether or not the two men were the same, the stream of other evidence was sufficient to convict.

When the Home Office discovered that Smith and Beck were not the same person they should have pursued the investigation further. Here they committed an error of judgment.

As to changes in the Home Office machinery which would make a recurrence of such an unhappy affair impossible he had one or two suggestions to make. First, he was surprised that the case was not submitted to the head of the Department. In every case which presented points of substantial doubt and difficulty, and in which the issues were so serious, a final decision ought not to be taken until the responsible head of the Home Office had had an opportunity of considering all the facts. Without arrogating to the Minister any superhuman powers of intuition, there was the advantage of bringing a fresh mind to bear on the circumstances. In the second place, there should be closer and more active co-ordination between the several Departments, between the police, the Public Prosecutor, and the Criminal department of the Home Office. He could not doubt that if there had been a little more constant communication between the departments associated with the machinery of justice the grave error committed might have been remedied earlier. Lastly, there should be a strengthening of the Criminal Department of the Home Office by an infusion of gentlemen with practical experience of the administration of the law. He dissented altogether from the censure which had been applied to the clerks at the Home Office who prepared the minutes. The high qualifications of first-class clerks in the Civil Service were universally recognised, and anybody with experience at the Home Office must acknowledge with gratitude the efficient service the clerks of that Department rendered. But the burden cast upon them should not be too heavy. They should be adequate in numbers. If the discussion assisted towards the smooth working of the machinery of the Home Office it would be useful, and although nothing could compensate the unfortunate victim of the unhappy blunder, he hoped in the result a recurrence would be prevented.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I certainly cannot complain of the excellent tone and temper by which this debate has been characterised. I think we are all actuated by the same idea. We all admit that a grave miscarriage of justice has taken place, and our great desire is to render the recurrence of such a miscarriage impossible. I cannot help thinking that the hon. Member who initiated this debate has not read very carefully either the Report or the recommendations of the Committee, or possibly the case itself, because he has certainly made a suggestion which, with the right hon. Gentleman who has just spoken, I join in strongly repudiating, viz., that there is a charge against the conduct of the police in the matter.

*MR. LOUGH said his remarks on that point had been entirely misunderstood. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Fife that the police behaved well in this case, except on one point, and that was the readiness with which the moment a complaint was made they clapped somebody into prison. Why could they not have waited a week or two to make good their case?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: That is a different point. It is not what I understood the hon. Gentleman to say, but I at once accept his disclaimer, I am only anxious to make it perfectly clear that the police behaved properly in this case, and that that was the unanimous finding of the Committee. My duty has been greatly lightened by the excellent speech of the right hon. Gentleman opposite in defence of the Department of which he was at one time the head. That defence comes much better from him than it would have done from me who am at present in charge of the Home Office, but I cordially endorse all that he has said about the staff, who, I think, with all deference to the Committee, have received in the Report rather less consideration than they deserved.

But what the Committee will chiefly desire to hear from me is how far we propose to carry out the recommendations of the Committee. Perhaps I might first allude to the appointment of the Committee of Inquiry. I assure the House that when this case was brought to my notice in July last there was no delay whatever in taking action in favour of the unfortunate man Mr. Beck. Directly we were informed by the police that it had been established that John Smith, and not Adolf Beck, was the author of the frauds in 1904, and that there was the strongest possible presumption that John Smith and not Adolf Beck was responsible for the frauds in 1896, we at once took steps for the provisional release of Mr. Beck, which was carried out on July 19th, and was confirmed a few days afterwards by a free pardon in respect of both convictions. A strong desire was expressed at the time, not only that there should be compensation, but also that an exhaustive inquiry should be made into this miscarriage of justice. We at once set about the appointment of a Committee, and I think both this House and the country generally were perfectly satisfied as to the impartiality of the Committee we appointed. We gave the Committee the freest possible hand in the conduct of the inquiry; they had at their disposal every document in the Home Office connected with the case. The Committee themselves state in their Report that every assistance was given them by the officials of the Department, and that they were given a perfectly free hand as to whether their proceedings should be conducted in public or otherwise. I have heard it said that there was considerable delay in the appointment of this Committee. I will only point out in passing that Parliament had separated and the Courts were not sitting, and under such circumstances it is not an easy matter to get together an important Committee of this sort. There was no avoidable delay in the appointment of the Committee, and I am glad to think that the *personnel* of the Committee gave complete satisfaction.

In their Report the Committee, first of all, acquit the police of all blame, and they criticise the action of a prison governor for not fully recording the marks of the convict Smith. They also criticise an officer of the Public Prosecutor's Department, who had charge of the prosecution, for not paying enough attention to facts which might have shown that Mr. Beck was not the same person as Smith. In their next finding the Committee state that the Recorder of London, who tried Mr. Beck in 1896, made the cardinal error which led to the miscarriage of justice by giving a ruling—which the Committee think was wrong in law—that excluded evidence which the Committee believe would have established Mr. Beck's innocence. Then they criticise certain subordinate members of the Home Office staff for failing to see that the evidence which the Judge excluded ought to have been considered, and for failing to see the full bearing on the case of the fact, discovered by the Home Office in 1898, that Smith was circumcised, and that, therefore, Mr. Beck could not be Smith.

What are the recommendations of the Committee based upon that Report? They say, first of all, that as there is at present no power to compel a Judge to state a case for the consideration of the Court of Crown Cases Reserved — if there had been the Committee think the miscarriage would have been remedied—there should be an alteration in the law, and that a short Act should be passed providing that on the motion to the Court of Crown Cases Reserved on good *prima facie* grounds the Court should have powers to grant a Rule calling on the Crown to support the ruling impugned; in other words, that there should be an alteration in the law to bring up a case to the Court of Crown Cases Reserved, whether the Judge is willing to state a case or not. To meet that recommendation a Bill has been introduced in another place, which, I trust, will before long come before this House. I should like here to say, speaking for myself personally, and, I believe, for several of my colleagues—though the matter has not been considered by the Government —that we are in favour of some form of Court of Criminal Appeal, or Court for reviewing criminal cases. Certainly there will be no objection to any proposal of the kind from the Department over which I have the honour to preside.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: In matters of practice as well as in matters of law?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: We should be out of order in discussing the actual form it should take; I am simply expressing a pious opinion in favour of some form of Court of Criminal Appeal in this country. I say that not on behalf of the Government, because the Government have not considered it, but on my own behalf, and I believe the learned Attorney-General fully shares my views. The next recommendation was that in cases involving reference to a Judge the Public Prosecutor, where he had acted, should be consulted. This recommendation has already been carried out. The next recommendation was referred to by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, viz., that the different public authorities concerned should be better co-ordinated to ensure intercommunication of material information, and to make it impossible that material information acquired by one authority, affecting a particular prisoner, should not be communicated to all. Directions have already been given which will secure this in all criminal cases involving a decision of the Home Secretary.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL asked whether any directions had been given with reference to giving prisoners access to documents, the Commissioners having strongly commented on the fact that there was no power in criminal cases to require the production of documents.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I cannot give a categorical answer on that point, but all the recommendations made by the Committee under this head have been carried out by the Department. Another important point to which attention was called by the Committee was with regard to the recording of previous convictions against prisoners, and the prison orders in that respect have been modified. The regulations as to police identification by witnesses have also been remodelled and strengthened, and the regulations as to prisoners' marks have been wholly recast. Since Smith was convicted in 1877, the old mark system, which, as the House will know, was very unscientific, has been superseded—first by the Bertillon system, which in its turn has given place to the finger-print system, which I believe is for this purpose as nearly perfect as possible. Certainly, that system would have rendered the mistaking of Mr. Beck for Smith an absolute impossibility. I now come to the recommendations of the Committee with regard to the staff at the Home Office. The Committee say that they—

> "Consider that the failure of the Home Office to rectify the miscarriage of justice was principally due to their want of appreciation of the legal error committed in excluding the evidence for the defence at the 1896 trial, and that the subordinate officials of the Department who deal with criminal work require technical training. They recommend, therefore, that the legal element in the staff should be strengthened."

I should like to associate myself with the expressions of regret of the right hon. Gentleman opposite at being unable to see eye to eye with the Committee, with all possible deference. I would express my strong regret that before they recommended so important a change in the organisation of the Criminal Department they did not make a direct inquiry into the present constitution of the department and its working; because if they had done so they would have discovered that considerable changes had taken place in the department since 1897–1898 when this case was considered. I regret that before making these sweeping charges against the department they did not call either Sir K. Digby or Mr. Chalmers to give evidence on the point. Further, I cannot help thinking that the Committee have unintentionally done something less than justice to the junior officials of that department, who were not called before the Committee, and had no opportunity of making any explanation of the charges brought against them. There is no doubt that a regrettable mistake was made, but the responsibility must rest chiefly upon the superiors, and that responsibility was most gallantly and loyally accepted by Sir K. Digby before the Committee. I agree with the right hon. Gentleman opposite that such cases are not likely to recur, but that we desire to make their recurrence absolutely impossible. I consider that with the changes which have been made it will be practically impossible for a case of this sort to occur in future, at all events in the same way or to the same degree. I do not think the difficulty would be met by making the staff a legal staff, as has been suggested. I have every confidence in the criminal branch of the Home Office, and I consider them entirely deserving of the esteem and confidence of the public. Any set of men who had to deal, as they had to deal, with this most unusual case would, in my opinion, have distrusted, as they distrusted, the defence founded on the mere similarity of handwriting, when compared with the overwhelmingly strong direct evidence for the prosecution. It must be remembered that they dealt with the case as it was presented to them in 1898, and not as we now do in the light thrown on it in 1904. That makes a very considerable difference.

I should like to associate myself with the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman opposite on the question of strengthening the department. I will only say that we have already relieved the department of a considerable amount of work which they had to perform in addition to their criminal duties, thereby enabling them to concentrate their attention upon those duties. Perhaps the Committee would like to know how that department is manned. At the head of the department there is an Under-Secretary who has had twelve years official experience as one of the County Court Judges of Birmingham, and who has been on several occasions a Commissioner of Assize. He has also been the senior legal Member of the Council of India, and is a lawyer with great experience. The second head of the department is one of the most brilliant Civil servants in this country, and is himself a barrister of some sixteen years standing. The third in the department is also a barrister and has many years experience. It is perfectly true that this particular case was not brought to the attention of the then Secretary of State, Sir Matthew White Ridley; it was dealt with by Sir Kenelm Digby. But I may say, in reference to certain remarks that have been made in the course of the debate, that I am perfectly certain that every single clerk who signs a minute, if he does not write the minute himself, is held to confirm it, and that he never signs it unless he has read it. It seems to be thought that the department is wanting in legal advice. I would point out, on that, that the Secretary of State has not only got the legal assistance of his own Department, but that he can always go, and does constantly go, to the Law Officers of the Crown, and even to the Lord Chancellor himself, for advice, which is never refused. I think, therefore, there is every ground for thinking that the best possible legal opinion in the country is at the disposal of the Secretary of State.

My hon. friend the Member for South Islington expressed the opinion that sufficient compensation had not been given to Mr. Beck. It is, of course, quite impossible to compensate any man adequately for a false imprisonment of six or seven years. The question in such a case is what is a fair solatium to offer in the circumstances. Although the fact does not appear in the Report, this particular matter was most carefully considered by the Committee presided over by the Master of the Rolls, and I am authorised to say that the £5,000 which was given was the sum which was recommended by that Committee, and that it was not included in the Report because they did not think it was within their province to do so. I conferred with the Committee, and I ascertained that that was the amount which they thought was a fair amount to offer, and that sum was offered to Mr. Beck.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT asked whether that was done without hearing Mr. Beck in any way.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: It was after hearing the whole of the circumstances of the case as put before the Committee. We had to consider this offer relatively with offers which had been made in the past under somewhat similar circumstances. The £5,000 which was offered to Mr. Beck is the largest amount which has ever been offered in this country to any person who has been placed in similar circumstances, and is greatly in excess of anything that has been given on like occasions in other countries. The sum of £5,000 has only been given once before, and it was given in 1858 to Mr. Barber, a solicitor, who was wrongfully convicted and transported to Norfolk Island, where he suffered great hardships. This was the largest amount ever given before. In 1862 £500 was given to Roscovitch, who was convicted of forgery in 1858, and sentenced to six years, penal servitude, of which he served five. It was afterwards discovered that Roscovitch was really guilty, and that he had imposed on the Secretary of State by a clever forgery. In 1879 £1,000 was paid to William Habron, who was convicted of murder, the capital sentence being commuted, and he was subsequently released after three years imprisonment. In 1880 £100 each was paid to Frost and Smith who had been wrongly convictd of burglary; £1,000 to Edmund Galley, a gipsy, convicted of murder in 1836 and transported apparently until 1879, who ultimately received a free pardon and £1,000 "not as an acknowledgment of innocence, but as an act of grace." This occurred in 1881. In 1882 £500 each and expenses were paid to Johnson and Clowes, two respectable farmers who were convicted by perjury of mutilating a man, and who were sentenced to ten years penal servitude, two years of which they served. In 1889 £800 each was paid to Brannagan and Murphy, who were wrongly convicted of burglary and sentenced to penal servitude for life, and they served nine years each. In other cases that have occurred the sums paid have been mostly quite small, ranging between £5 and £10. The only other large sum was £600 paid for a wrongful arrest by the Colchester police, who arrested a man in New Zealand and brought him over to England. In this country and in Italy, Holland, and the United States there are no laws as to compensation, and in Italy, Holland, and the United States no compensation has ever been given. In France there have been twelve cases and the maximum sum paid is £3,000; Belgium, five cases, maximum £40; Germany, one case, £700, and this case is still *sub judice*; Sweden, 9 cases, maximum £50. I do not see how we could have gone further in this direction, especially having regard to the fact that the Committee which carefully considered the case thought that that would be a proper sum to offer to Mr. Beck.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): Will the right hon. Gentleman say "Yes" or "No" to the question, "Did you in the first instance offer Mr. Beck £2,000?"?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The suggestion in that question is that Mr. Beck was first offered £2,000, and that, because of an attack in a certain newspaper, that amount was increased. That is not so. We offered Mr. Beck, I think the amount was £1,500, before we ascertained what his costs were, and then £2,000 was offered, and no alteration of that sum was made until the Committee had considered the whole case—a consideration which entirely altered the gravity of the case. There is no foundation whatever for the suggestion that we were put up to auction, so to speak, by a newspaper.

SIR ALBERT ROLLIT: Can the right hon. Gentleman say whether Mr. Beck had an opportunity of stating to the Committee what was the financial loss he had sustained?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: My memory does not serve me on that point, and I cannot say whether Mr. Beck stated what his loss was. But the Committee considered the point, and they suggested that £5,000 would be a right and proper sum to offer. I apologise to the Committee for the length of my remarks. The chief reason of this Motion is not a vote of censure, which does not apply to myself or to any representative of the Home Office, but I understand that it is prompted by a desire to learn what steps the Government had taken to render as far as possible any repetition of such an injustice in the future.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N. W.) said it was most unfortunate that the time for discussion should be so limited, and he trusted and believed that another opportunity would be afforded at no distant date for discussing many of the questions which were involved in this unfortunate miscarriage of justice. This debate had not been thrown away, even if they only took into account the assurance given by the Home Secretary that the Government, with the assistance of the Law Officers of the Crown, were seriously considering the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal. He echoed what had fallen from his hon. friend behind him when he said it should not be confined to mere consideration of legal points, but that, under such conditions as might be found practical, a review of the facts of the case should be open to a prisoner who conceived that he had been unjustly convicted. He wished also to associate himself with the expression of opinion from his right hon. and learned friend the Member for East Fife, and the Home Secretary, as to the high character and ability which was displayed by the Home Office officials, and, indeed, by most of the officials of this great Department of State.

He, however, dissociated himself from the somewhat complacent attitude of his right hon. friend the Member for East Fife and his right hon. friend the Secretary for the Home Department. The House was not satisfied with the action and the inaction of the Treasury and of the police in this matter. He was perfectly sure that he was only expressing the opinion generally entertained when he said that the action of the police had not been altogether satisfactory in the matter of this prosecution. That might be partly due to individual remissness and partly to defects in the system. He was perfectly satisfied that the system of identification which was pursued in regard to prisoners was most unsatisfactory. He said so not for the purpose of finding fault, but in order to direct the attention of the Home Secretary to the matter, so that he might cause some alteration in the system of identification. If a man in good position, well dressed, and of genteel appearance was arrested, and had to be paraded for the purpose of identification, he was probably the only one among those presented for identification who had the appearance of a gentleman. That was an unfortunate thing in the case of Mr. Beck. He was well dressed and presented the appearance of the person who undoubtedly did commit the frauds. The identification was effected in the company of corner boys and loafers. He hoped the Home Secretary would consider whether some more effective mode of identification than this could not be secured. Why was it that when a number of women failed to identify Mr. Beck, this information was not sent to the prisoner's solicitor? He had made a careful examination of the evidence and he was perfectly satisfied that facilities were not afforded to the prisoner's counsel or solicitor which might have been. He further called the attention of the Home Secretary to the fact that the prisoner's solicitor applied for documents from time to time to assist him in demonstrating that Mr. Beck and Smith were not one and the same person. These documents were of the most vital importance, for if the solicitor could establish that Mr. Beck and Smith were not the same person, as ultimately turned out to be the fact, Mr. Beck's immediate release would have been attained. The hon. Member did not know that in the whole of his experience of the administration of justice he had ever known a case which provoked one's indignation more than the treatment which Mr. Beck's solicitor received from Sir Robert Anderson. He gave the solicitor the laconic reply that these documents could not be shown and could not be produced. Why not? They were described as confidential. The Inquiry Committee stated that in their judgment there was not the slightest foundation for describing them as confidential. He hoped the House would bear with him when he referred to the peremptory, and what he must describe as the insolent, refusal of the documents. He trusted the Home Secretary would not allow this state of things to continue longer. An inspector and a sergeant of police asked whether, in their opinion, the documents should be produced or not. Could anything be more ludicrous, anything more unintelligent? He hoped that henceforth when it came to the production of any document which might be required in the interest of a prisoner's defence the question whether or not it should be produced would depend on something more than the judgment of an inspector and sergeant of police.

There were other matters in connection with the conduct of the authorities which certainly required elucidation. How was it when the case was presented at the Old Bailey the solicitor of the Treasury, or the gentleman acting for him, instructed his counsel that Smith and Mr. Beck were one and the same person when he knew, as he must have known, that if these two men were different Mr. Beck could not have been guilty. How was it that the counsel for the prosecution was instructed to shut out the admission of evidence which demonstrated beyond the shadow of a doubt that Mr. Beck was not Smith. He said with a full sense of responsibility that the gentleman who represented the Treasury at the trial deliberately instructed counsel to shut out evidence which would have proved beyond the shadow of a doubt that Smith and Mr. Beck were not identical, and that Smith and the criminal of 1896 were identical. That was a matter which had made an impression on the public mind, because it showed that the conduct of the Treasury was deserving of the most severe censure. It did not end there. The public also wanted to know why Inspector Waldeck was removed from the case.

Sir ROBERT FINLAY: If the hon. Member will look at the Report of the Committee he will see these words—

> "We are quite satisfied that there was nothing whatever to complain of in the conduct of the trial by the prosecution.'

Mr. ATHERLEY-JONES said he did not care what the Report said. He had read the evidence. He was perfectly prepared to substantiate the statement he had made. He was animated by no feeling against any of the gentlemen in question. Though the Committee said that they did not think any complaint could be made as to the conduct of the prosecution, he said the public were entitled to something more. They were entitled to look at the evidence. It was not a matter merely of the Beck case. It was a matter of much larger moment. Every Member of the House, and no one more than the right hon. Gentleman who held the high office of Home Secretary, desired that there should be absolute purity in the administration of justice, and at some later time, when it arose again, he would go into the question of the conduct of the Treasury in this prosecution. No adequate explanation had been given why Inspector Waldeck was removed from the case. He was removed on the plea that he was too busy with other duties. It was curious that Waldeck's removal from the case was coincident with the report by him to Mr. Sims that Mr. Beck and Smith were not one and the same person. He dared say it was all capable of explanation. The *Daily Mail*, though not a paper to which he was favourably disposed, deserved great credit for the part it took in pressing this matter. The public were now watching for the decision at which the Government would arrive.

And, it being half-past Five of the clock, the Chairman, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th March, proceeded to put the Questions necessary to dispose of the Vote under consideration.

Question put, "That Item BBB (Compensations for Wrongful Imprisonment) be reduced by £100."—(*Mr. Lough.*)

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 204; Noes, 257. (Division List No. 69.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, NE)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt Hn HerbertHenry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E Haviland-
Buxton, Sydney, Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt EC(SAndrw'sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,SirFrancisH.(Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Flexander(Lanark,NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry

Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift

MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon John(Montrose)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea. Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day

Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, MajJ.E.B.(Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, N.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters(N.Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, SirJT.(Huddersf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Lough and Mr. Atherley-Jones.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hon.SirH.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline Fitzroy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hon.A.J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, RtHn Gerald W.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George

Banner, John S. Harmood
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T
Bathurst, Hon Allen Benjamin
Beach, RtHn.Sir MichaelHicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Lt.-Col. HF.(Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.

Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, RtHn.J A.(Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge

Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies,SirHoratioD.(Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmund
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt.Hon.SirJosephC.
Dorington, Rt Hon SirJohn E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt.Hon.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt Hn. SirJ.(Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,SirR B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster,PhilipS.(Warwick,S.W.)
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, SirAugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,HenryD. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq. of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, SirJames(Staffords.NW
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon.James HenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt.Hon.SirJohnH.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hon Col. W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,SirJoseph (Monm'th)
Lawson,Hn H.L.W (Mile End)
Lawson, JohnGrant(Yorks NR
Lee,ArthurH (Hants,Fareham)
Legge, Col Hon Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut -Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol,S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh,W)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bignham
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu,Hon.J.Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Peel, Hon. William Robert
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel,SirHarryS. (Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis Romford
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,AbelH. (Hertford,East)
Smith,H.C(North'mb, Tynside)
Smith,RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W.Bromwich)
Stanley,Hon.Arthur(Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt.Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir J.MarkM'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col. Sir CEH (Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond Rt. Hn.Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Col. C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.AC.E. (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G.E (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley,H.(Ashton-und.Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, SirW.H.(Yorks
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, HenryWilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Original Question put, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other Legal Proceedings."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 257; Noes, 209. (Division List No. 70.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardener, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt Hon John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour, RtHnGerald W.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. SirMichaelHicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J A. (Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. E (Worc)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down. North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim, S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies, SirHoratio, D(Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmund
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. SirJoseph C.
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir JohnE.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn, Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. SirJ (Manc'r.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir RB (Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, SirRobert Penrose-
FitzRoy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt Hon Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, SirJames(Staffords NW
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John(Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. JamesHenry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. SirJohnH
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph (Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (MileEnd)
Lawson, John Grant(Yorks. NR
Lee, Arthur H (Hants. Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col CharlesW (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Bristol, S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, ReginaldJ. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W. H. (Dumfrieshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick(G
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, DavidJ. (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington)
Peel, Hon. Wm. RobertWellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard

Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel,SirHarryS. (Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, AbelH. (Hertford,East)
Smith, H.C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,RtHnJ Parker(Lanark)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W,Bromwich)
Stanley, Rt.Hon.Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.C.E.HSir(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Col. C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton)
Welby,SirCharles G.E(Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley,H (Ashton-und.Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thos. Joseph
Craig, RobertHunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice,CaptEC(S.Andrew'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,SirFrancisH.(Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE.
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby, Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey,Rt.Hon. SirE.(Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt, Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol,E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal,W.)
Lawson, SirWilfrid(Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJoseph F.(Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
K'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan,J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley,Rt.Hn.John (Montrose)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P
Newnes, Sir George

Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tepperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E, (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John (Bamford)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northant)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffes
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

The Chairman, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, then proceeded to put forthwith the Question, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £63,930, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for Expenditure on the following Services included in the Civil Services Supplementary Estimates, 1904–5.

CLASS III.	£
County Courts - - -	10
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Ireland - -	860
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland - -	60
CLASS IV.	
Scientific Investigations, etc. -	9,000
CLASS V.	
Protectorates - - -	54,000
	£63,930

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 262; Noes, 207. (Division List No. 71.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt-Col H. F. (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn J. A. (Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.)
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred

Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Saville
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies,SirHoratioD.(Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt.Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dorington, Rt.Hon.Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt.Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Man'cr)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon.Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, SirAugustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj.Evans(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath,SirJames(Staffords,N.W
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John(KentFaversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon.James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon.Geo.T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn.Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,Sir Joseph(Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W. (MileEnd)
Lawson,JohnGrant(Yorks.N.R
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham)
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt.Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon J.Scott(Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ(Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike(Darl'ngton)
Peel, Hn. W. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col.Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ractliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel,SirHarryS.(Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H(Renfrew)
Simeon, Sir Barrington
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,H.C.(North'mbTyneside
Smith,RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks.
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Rt.Hon.Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,ColSirC.E.H(Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn.SirWilliam H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G.E.(Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. Ashton-und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilsoo, A.Stanley(York., E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt.Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt.Hn.HerbertHenry
Atherley-Jones, L.

Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles

Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William

Dalziel, James Henry
Davies M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William

Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt. E. C(S Andrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H(Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney

Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander(LanarkNE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher

Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton

Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)

Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah

Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James

Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex(Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry

Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
McCrae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John

Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughenssy, P. J.

Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur

Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold J.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie(Dumfries)
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter

Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J E B. (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal

Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips

Ure, Alexander

Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters(N Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T(Huddersf'd)

Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Question put, "That the Chairman do report these Resolutions to the House."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 256; Noes, 205. (Division List No. 72.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel.
Allhusen, Augustus H. Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hn Sir H
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn A J (Manch'r)
Balfour, RtHn. Gerald(Leeds, W
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Barry, Sir Francis T.(Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn Sir Michael H.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt-Col. H F.(Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A.(Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W.(Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A.(Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim, S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies, SirHoratio D.(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph
Dorington, Rt. Hon Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J.(Manc'r.
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B.(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederic
Gordon, Hn. J E (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, RtHnLordG(Midd'x)
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'n'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley)
Heath, Sir James(Staffords. NW
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F.(Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Faver'h'm
Howard, J.(Midd, Tottenham)
Hozier, Hn James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, RtHn, Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T.(Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hn. Frederick W
Laurie, Lieut-General
Law, Andrew Bonar(Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph(Monm'th)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W.(Mile End)
Lawson, John G. (Yorks. N. R.)
Lee, Arthur H(Hants., Fareh'm)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Bristol S.)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, RtHn. Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James

Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson Brooke
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, Rt Hn J Parker (Lanarks.)
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E. H (Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C. E. (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt Hn. C.. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt E C (S. Andrw's Bghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwic
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley Hudson E
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Ed. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Norman Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William

Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R Threshie (Dumfries)
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn C. R (Northants)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (N Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

Resolutions to be reported upon Thursday; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. Lowther (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

The Chairman, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put forthwith the Questions—

1. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, the sum of £626,630 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 261; Noes, 202. (Division List No. 73.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn, Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley-
Davies, Sir Horatio D (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Dorington, Rt. Hon Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn. Sir J. (Manc.)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzgerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick

Gordon, Hn.J.E. (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,Maj Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond- (Cambs)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHn LordG(Midd'x
Hamilton, Marq.of(L'donderry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath,SirJames(Staffords.NW)
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard John(KentFaversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier,Hon.James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur F.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John.
Kenyon,Hon.Geo.T.(Denbighs)
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt Hon.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. FrederickWm.
Laurie, Lieutenant-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawson, Hn. H. L.W.(Mile End
Lawson,JohnGrant(YorksN.R.
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.Fareham
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col.CharlesW.(Evesham
Long, Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol,S.
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh W.
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn.SirFrederickG.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,DavidJ (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray,Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,HerbertPike (Darlington
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel,SirHarryS. (Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart,Sir H. (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H. Hertford, East)
Smith,HC.(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,Rt.HnJ.Parker(Lanarks
Smith,Hon.W.F.D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. W. (Bromwich)
Stanley, Rt. Hon.Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, John E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.Sir CEH(Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall.
Walrond,Rt.Hon.SirWilliam H
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-ColA.C.E (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton-und-Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith,Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph

Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw's Bghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid(Cornwall.)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, SirR.Threshie(Dumfries)
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(Isle ofWight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.HnC.R(Northants)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(NDorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse,SirJT.(Hudd'rsf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

2. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, the sum of £28,172,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

The Committee divided: Ayes, 251; Noes, 201. (Division List No. 74.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen, Augustus HenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn.HughO
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn Sir H
Bailey, James (Walworth)

Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alex.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt HnGeraldW(Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir F. T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach,Rt.Hn.Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.- Col. H.F.(Middl'x)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt Hn.J.A.(Glasgow
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V C W (Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn.J.AWorc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies, Sir HoratioD(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir JosephC.
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn Sir J.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,Sir R. B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir RobertPenrose
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson

Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fred
Gordon,Hn.J.E. (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'r H'mle's
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George J.
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D(Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,RtHn LordG(Mdd'x
Hamilton,Marq. of (L'donderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, ArthurHoward(Hanley)
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords.N.W)
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F(Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd.,Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James HenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys,Rt.Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herb. Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbeigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawson, Hn. H. L.W(Mile End)
Lawson,JohnGrant(Yorks.NR)
Lee,Arthur H. (HantsFareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W (Evesham)
Long,Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther,C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, SirLewis(Edinburgh,W

Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mildway, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,David J.(Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Peel,Hn.Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel,SirHarryS.(Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart,SirH.(Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith,AbelH. (Hertford,East)
Smith,H C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith,Rt.HnJParker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stanley,Rt.Hon. Lord(Lancs.)
Stewart, SirJ.Mark. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)

Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. EH (Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col. AC. E. (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby, de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir WH. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES — Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice, Capt EC (S Andrw's Bghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H. (Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey Sir James
Jones,, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shackelton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J!
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northant
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal

Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannon)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,ArthurWalter (N.Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse,SirJ.T(Huddersf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

"That the Chairman do Report these Resolutions to the House."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 247: Noes, 196. (Division List No. 75.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allhusen,Augustus HenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-ForsterRt.Hn.Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn.Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt.Hn.A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds)
Balfour,Kenneth R. (Christch.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry,SirFrancis T. (Windsor)
Beach,Rt.Hn.SirMichael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles,Lt.-Col.H.F(Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A (Glasgow
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chambelain RtHn.J.A.(Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd(Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley-
Davies,SirHoratioD.(Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Rt.Hn. SirJoseph C.
Dorington, Rt.Hn. SirJohn E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke,Rt.Hn. Sir WilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.SirJ.(Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald,Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson,Sir AugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn.J.E(Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon Maj.Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
HamiltonRtHnLordG.(Midd'x)
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'donderry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F.Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,ArthurHoward(Hanley)
HeathSirJames(Staffords.NW)
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(SheffieldBrightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
HowardJohn(Kent,Faversham
Howard, J.(Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T.(Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson,Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson JohnGrant(Yorks.N.R
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder,Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.Charles W (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn. Walter(Bristol,S)
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh W)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner,Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
MorganDavidJ.(Walthamstow,
Morpeth, Viscount

Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease HerbertPike(Darlington
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
SamuelSir HarryS.(Limehouse)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart Sir H.(Renfrew)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith AbelH.(Hertford, East)
SmithH.C(North'mb.Tyneside)
Smith RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Rt.Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E.(Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
VincentCol.Sir C.E H(Sheffield)
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt.Hn.Sir WilliamH.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
WelbyLt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton)
Welby Sir CharlesG.E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,SirW.H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M.Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dickson-Poynder,Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Ellice,CaptEC(S.Andrw'sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
EvansSirFrancisH.(Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Ffrench, Peter
FindlayAlexander(Lanark,NE)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F)
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt.Hn. Sir E.(Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C.E.H. (Bristol,E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope,John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr.Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex.(Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
LeeseSir JosephF.(Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell Edw.(Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan,J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans

O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'KellyJames(Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Reid,Sir R.Threshie (Dumfries)
Richards, Thomas(WMonm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely Maj.J.E.B. (IsleofWight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer RtHn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason JohnCathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,ArthurWalters(N.Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
WoodhouseSirJ.T(Hudd'rsfi'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—
Mr. Herbert Gladstone and
Mr. William M'Arthur.

Resolutions to be reported upon Thursday; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

SUPPLY [MARCH 8TH.]

Resolution reported.

ARMY SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1904–5 (SOMALILAND.)

That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £550,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for additional Expenditure in respect of the following Army services, viz.:—

		£
Vote 1.	Pay, etc., of the Army - - -	985,000
,, 2.	Medical Establishments, Pay, etc.	21,000
,, 6.	Transport and Remounts - -	265,000
,, 7.	Provisions, Forage, and other supplies	260,000
,, 12.	Miscellaneous Effective Services -	2,000
,, 14.	Retired Pay, Half-Pay, and other non-effective charges for Officers, etc. - -	1,000
Vote 15.	Pensions and other non-effective charges for Warrant Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, Men, and others - -	2,000
		1,536,000
Less Surpluses on other Votes - - - -		386,000
		1,150,000
Deduct Excess Appropriations in Aid - - -		600,000
		£550,000

Resolution read a second time.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that this Vote covered a very wide subject, and he regretted that it had come up at so late an hour.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) said that if hon. Members opposite desired to discuss the Vote he was perfectly willing to defer it.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said in that case he would move the adjournment of the debate.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) asked whether under the Closure Resolution it was not out of order to move a dilatory Motion, this being one of the specified days.

***Mr. SPEAKER**: That is so. The adjournment of the debate is a dilatory Motion; therefore I am afraid the hon. Member will have to occupy the remaining few minutes of the sitting.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (resuming) said he would conclude by moving a reduction of £250,000. One complaint against this Vote was that it was almost wholly due to lack of foresight. If the War Office were an economical Department always striving to save the taxpayers' money mistakes of £10,000 or £20,000 might occasionally be overlooked, but, unfortunately, they were always making mistakes on the wrong side, and it was the duty of the House carefully to scrutinise all these additional Votes, and to go thoroughly into the mistakes of accounting. The question of Somaliland had had considerable light thrown upon it by the recent treaty which had been brought about by pacific means, and which apparently we might have secured years ago had we gone the right way to work. What the country would want to know was why that was not done, instead of millions of money being spent and many lives lost. Then there was the question of Appropriations-in-aid. He had been told that during the last twelve months the War Office brought under contract 40,000 suits of clothes at 11s. odd. It was then found that the clothes would not be needed before the end of the year, and, therefore, they were sold at a price less than they cost to make. That was the kind of thing that made the accounts of the War Office exceptionally difficult to go into.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, Further Consideration of the Resolution stood adjourned.

Resolution to be further considered to-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY BILL
[By Order.]

Read a second time, and committed.

Mr. BELL (Derby) said that he had given notice of an Instruction to the Committee to strike out the clause making certain requirements with regard to the pension fund which the company had provided for its employees. He was sorry to find that in some instances certain companies had used undue influence to compel their employees to become members of such funds. He did not, however, propose to press the Instruction if he received an assurance on behalf of the promoters that no undue influence would be brought to bear on any of the railway servants to become members of the fund. He found that the men in the employ of the North Eastern Company were equally divided in opinion as to the advantages of the fund, and under the circumstances he did not think he would be doing justice either to the Company or to the men if he pressed his Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to leave out Clause 37."—(*Mr. Bell.*)

Sir EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick) said that on behalf of the North Eastern Railway Company he was prepared to give the assurance for which the hon. Member asked.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) moved an instruction to the Committee to whom the Bill would be referred, limiting the provisions of Clause 38 to omnibuses, coaches, cars, and other road vehicles conveying persons, luggage, parcels, and goods to and from the company's railway stations. The persons with whom he was acting had not the slightest wish to prevent the facilities for transit in the country districts where there was no such provision at the present time. The only point they desired to take up was that it was a little too much to ask Parliament for statutory power to use funds for purposes other than those for which they were originally raised, and possibly to crush out the competition of other means of locomotion by the weight of the company's capital. He was glad to understand from the promoters that there was no such intention in their minds, and that there was a probability that a reasonable agreement might be arrived at.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to whom the Bill is referred that they limit the provisions of Clause 38 to omnibuses, coaches, cars, and other road vehicles conveying persons, luggage, parcels, and goods to and from the company's railway stations."—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

SIR EDWARD GREY said he understood that the object of his hon. friend in moving the Instruction was that limiting words should be introduced into the clause protecting tramways especially from what he considered unfair or undue competition. Owing to the powers exercised by railway companies under this clause he thought it not unreasonable his hon. friend should desire some safeguard of the kind suggested. He thought the promoters would be prepared to say that there should be nothing in the section which would authorise the company to run an omnibus in any borough or urban district otherwise than those from the stations of the company. He was not sure that those words went the whole length which his hon. friend desired, but he thought they indicated, definitely, willingness on the part of the company to consider some safeguard such as was suggested. At the same time the suggestion as it stood would be impossible. Supposing his hon. friend's Instruction were carried, it would be impossible for a railway company running an omnibus to a village six miles away to drop anyone on the return journey at an intermediate village three miles away. He suggested that the Bill should be allowed to proceed to the Committee, and then, if an entirely satisfactory arrangement was not arrived at, his hon. friend could raise the point at a subsequent stage.

SIR CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said he feared that if the Instruction were agreed to it would prevent a useful extension of the proposed power in rural districts. He was one of those who were watching with interest the co-operative movements intended to place agriculture on a sounder basis, and he attached special importance to the facilities offered by railways and proposals of this kind. The hon. Member for Halifax spoke as representing the tramway interest. The statutory powers which the railways enjoyed had been seriously affected by the competition of tramways, but they had had to submit to it. The railways admitted that they constituted a substantial gain to the travelling public, but what the promoters of the Bill asked for was that the facilities which tramways had given in the cities might be extended far beyond the bounds to which it was possible that the tramway system would ever extend, and so afford agriculturists an opportunity of putting their commodities on the market in the most economical way. It was on the lines of that clause that the great future development of agriculture would probably take place, and he, therefore, hoped the House would never agree to the Instruction proposed.

MR. ATHERLEY-JONES (Durham, N.W.) said he thought the power which would, under the clause in dispute, be accorded to the railway company, would be used to the hindrance and obstruction of the development of tramway traction by private and municipal enterprise. It authorised a railway to own a tramway, and it would then be in the power of a railway company enjoying a monopoly to prevent a tramway company or local authority from supplying public wants. He would reserve his right of opposing the Bill on the Report Stage unless it was provided that the power which this clause conferred was not to be applied to boroughs or urban districts.

MR. WHITLEY said he thought the assurance given by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Berwick was sufficient to enable them to pass the Bill for the present. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to be willing to insert certain words which he had read, and further, he would consider in Committee whether further words were needed to carry out his intention. He and the hon. Baronet were practically agreed, therefore, and it only remained for the clause to be properly formulated in Committee.

Sir J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) said he hoped that nothing would be done to injure the important interests of municipalities owning extensive tramways.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said he warned the House to be very careful before agreeing to the compromise. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Berwick was rather disposed to give too many assurances to the hon. Member for Halifax and other opponents. The House ought not to be bound by any arrangement made outside, so that when the Bill had passed through Committee it might be revised by the House entirely in the interests of the travelling public and of the traders and agriculturists whose goods they wished to see transported from agricultural districts. The hon. Member for North-East Durham seemed to object to a railway company having a tramway running along a road, but he hoped no compromise would be made that would prevent a railway company from doing anything of that sort. In many cases such a power would be of the greatest advantage, and he only regretted that railway companies were too little inclined to offer such facilities. Such tramways would have the additional merit of preventing the destruction which was caused to the roads at present by heavy motor traffic. The House ought to be zealous to see that the public interests were protected and not interfered with in any way, whatever compromise might be arrived at outside the House. He desired to say no more at the present stage, except to assure his right hon. friend who was acting for the railway directors on this occasion, that anything he did in the Committee upstairs to give greater facilities for bringing agricultural produce into the great centres of population would receive the support of all agricultural Members like himself.

Mr. LLOYD WHARTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon) said that under this Bill they were granting a motor omnibus which would run a horse-shoe journey through a district where there was not a light railway, and where they had asked the railway company to put down a light railway, which had been refused because there was no possibility of it being made to pay. This motor omnibus would run through several villages, and if this Instruction were passed it would deprive those villages of the benefits of this motor omnibus service. Such a course would be absolutely injurious to the interests of the poor people in those districts. This railway company enjoyed a large monopoly, and they were anxious to provide for the requirements of those districts, where they could do it at little or no profit. He assured the House that the money earned by this company was hardly in excess of the expenses, but what they were now proposing gave satisfaction to the inhabitants of the districts concerned, and provided them with means of locomotion which they would not otherwise have. There were many other districts in which this railway company could carry out a similar policy with great advantage to the population, and he hoped that after the assurance which had been given the House would agree to read the Bill a second time.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest) said that, as the representative of an agricultural constituency and a motorist, he was anxious to see no hindrances placed upon facilities for motor omnibus travelling. It was very desirable that the House of Commons should not interfere with the development of the cheapest and most convenient form of locomotion.

Sir EDWARD GREY said that he could not extend the undertaking he had given, nor could he withdraw from it. The hon. Member for Halifax was perfectly free to raise further points in Committee.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

MIDLAND RAILWAY BILL [By Order.]

Read a second time, and committed.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) said the Instruction he had placed on the Paper in regard to this Bill referred to the same matter as his proposal in reference to the previous Bill. If he could get a similar assurance from the promoters of this Bill he would not press his Motion. Meanwhile he begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That it be an Instruction to the Committee to whom the Bill is referred that they limit the provisions of Clause 22 to omnibuses, coaches, cars, and other road vehicles conveying persons, luggage, parcels, and goods to and from the company's railway stations."—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Sir CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.) said there was no direct representative of the Midland Railway Company present, but he would suggest to the hon. Member for Halifax that he should allow the Bill to go forward on the same understanding as had been given in the case of the former Bill, namely, that an opportunity should be given of discussing the question.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

NORTH EASTERN RAILWAY (STEAM VESSELS) BILL (By Order).

[Second Reading.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

*Sir WILLIAM TOMLINSON (Preston) desired to call attention to the extensive powers sought by this Bill to run steamers between Hull and many ports, extending as far as Stockholm, and he considered so great an extension of the powers generally granted to railway companies deserved examination, and he proposed, in order to invite attention to the subject, to move that the Bill be read a second time that day six months. He did not bring this Motion forward in any hostile spirit, and he did not intend to press it to a division. This development of the functions of railway companies greatly increased their functions and was one of very considerable importance to the trading interests of the country. It was no new thing for railway companies to ask for powers to run lines of steamships between certain points, but whilst originally these powers were limited to making connecting links between different railway systems on opposite sides of the water, during the last few years company after company had enlarged their system of water communication to an extent never previously contemplated. There was this difference between the grant by Parliament to railway companies of powers to construct railways and to run steamships to distant parts, that in the former case they were under an obligation to carry out the undertaking, whilst in the latter it was quite optional with them whether they acted upon the powers given them, and he desired to urge that the time had come when there ought to be some kind of public inquiry into the powers railway companies were acquiring under Bills of this description, and the mode in which and the limits and conditions under which such powers should be exercised. It was true that the powers proposed to be granted by this Bill were analogous to those granted to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company last year, and also to some acquired by other railway companies previously, and it was obvious that keen competition might be occasioned in which the railway companies might unintentionally place the merchandise imported from foreign countries in a more favourable position than the products of this country. He thought it was worthy of consideration whether some precautions should not be taken to prevent such a state of things arising, and that the time had now arrived when it would be wise for the Board of Trade to institute some kind of inquiry by a Committee, or Commission or otherwise. He therefore begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir William Tomlinson.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick) said that all the Bill asked for were the identical powers which were given by Parliament last year to the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) thought the time had come for the Board of Trade to direct an inquiry into the whole policy of these railway companies in acting as sea carriers. He desired to support the Motion which had been made by the hon. Baronet the Member for Preston. If they granted these powers to one railway they could not refuse them to another company. Such powers were very much open to abuse. What they had to recollect was that in the case of railway companies who were shipowners it was to their own interest to carry goods by sea at nominal rates in order that they might carry them upon their own railway. This would be unfair to British manufacturers and traders, who were thus placed at a disadvantage with their foreign competitors. Besides this it was unfair to particular ports, and the port of Liverpool had suffered very much in this respect in the past. It was unfair to the shipowner, because he was subjected to unfair competition from the railway companies, who would carry goods at lower prices simply to act as feeders to their own lines. He thought the Board of Trade might direct an inquiry to be made into the whole of the conditions under which these railway companies were acting. Such safeguards ought to be laid down as would prevent these great powers being exercised in a manner which inflicted injury upon other industries.

Question put, and agreed to.

Main Question put, and agreed to. Bill read a second time, and committed.

GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY (ADDITIONAL POWERS) BILL (BY ORDER.)

Read a second time. and committed.

IRISH LAND ACT, 1903.

MR. FFRENCH (Wexford, S.) said he desired to move the Resolution that stood in his name. It covered a wide area and he should leave to his hon. friends the task of dealing with several matters bounded by this Resolution, as their constituents felt the breakdown of the Land Purchase Act of 1903 much more keenly, perhaps, than his, as fully one-half of the latter purchased under previous Acts. He felt great pleasure in proposing this Resolution for two reasons, first, because he was a tenant farmer himself; and secondly, because he was one of the Members for the County Wexford, a county that had purchased more land than any other county in Ireland. He had seen for himself the benefits which land purchase had conferred on the community there, and he sincerely hoped that these benefits would be extended to the whole of the tenantry of Ireland in the immediate future.

When the Land Purchase Act of 1903 was passing through the House, it seemed under the guardianship of the angel of peace. They could almost hear the fluttering of his wings. Ireland at last was to have peace and prosperity. The landlord would have his net income on the basis of second-term rents, and the tenant would have an adequate reduction, fully sufficient to enable him to compete with the foreigner in the agricultural markets. But, as soon as the administration of the Act commenced in Ireland the trouble began. The insatiable greed of the landlords showed itself. They were not satisfied with their net incomes on the basis of second-term rents, but in all probability they would have to put up with much less if the restrictions on the importation of foreign store cattle were removed. Now, the state of things in his own county was, he supposed, a sample of what was going on all over Ireland. Twenty years ago tenants in his district bought out their holdings under the Ashbourne Act at eighteen years purchase. Their rents had been fixed in the Land Commission Court, and they had got 20 per cent reduction. They got a further reduction of 28 per cent. by purchase. They were entitled to decadal reductions as well, and he dared say they were now paying only about one-third of the old rate. Contrast that with the position of tenants buying under the Land Act of 1903, and giving twenty-six or twenty-seven years purchase without decadal reductions. Those were monstrous prices, considering that in England the price and value of land had both gone down, and even in Ireland, in the Land Judge's Court, the price of well secured head rents was not more than twenty or twenty-three years purchase.

Now, in his humble opinion, the Land Purchase Act of 1903, or rather what was known as the zones, was responsible for these exorbitant prices which, if they went on, would plunge their country in bankruptcy. On every estate there were arrears of rent. Many of these poor tenant farmers were living from hand to mouth, and severely pressed even at that, as the landlords well knew. The arrears and the zones were used as a leverage to extort a high price from the unfortunate tenant. Sooner than face eviction, and impelled by anxiety to be rid of the incubus of landlordism, he consented to the landlord's terms. The bargain was made within the zones, and the purchase money was advanced whether the land was security for it or not. It was to the interest of the landlords to have sales within the zones, and when they had forced their tenants to agree to big prices, which they never expected the Land Commission would sanction, they had adopted the simple plan of making them sign judicial agreements, so that the tenants would come within the zones and inspection would be done away with. It was said that inspection would retard sales, but this was not the case. An inspector had to come down to see if the maps were all right, and he might as well inspect the holding for its value as well as for its boundary. The additional delay would be nothing to speak of, and might secure fair play for both landlord and tenant. At present the result of the zone system was to compel the tenant to pay six or seven years purchase more for the land than its value. There was one thing the British Government could not do in Ireland. The British Government, with all its power, with its Army and its Navy, was incapable of destroying the insatiable greed of Irish landlords, but they could destroy the zones by which extortionate prices were wrung from the Irish tenants The Land Purchase Act of 1903 was very little better than a myth. Agreements were lodged up to the 28th of February last to the amount of about £17,000,000, but only £3,500,000 or £4,000,000 had been distributed to claimants on estates sold. They were told that the land of Ireland would be sold in twelve years, but at the present rate of progress it would take over thirty years. An Act of Parliament had been passed which would cost £112,000,000 to carry it out, and it was passed because every Member in that House believed the Irish land question must be settled, and settled quickly. What was the use in passing an Act of this kind if they did not provide money to finance it? If they wanted progress and justice as well, abolish the zones and finance the Act.

Another portion of the Act that had proved an abject failure was that relating to the restoration of the evicted tenants and the distribution of grass lands. They were led to believe that the evicted tenants would be restored to their homes, that the planters would be bought out, and in cases, where the planters would not sell, that the evicted tenants would be provided with homes elsewhere. But, although 4,550 applications were made on behalf of the evicted tenants, only 137 had been restored to their homes. The Coogreuny tenants, North Wexford, were amongst the fortunate ones, but the Waluce tenants were still out in the cold. On this estate there were about 800 acres of untenanted land. The Estates Commissioners, or some persons for them, had been over the land and promised the tenants that they would get back to their homes. He believed they had been over the land a second time and made a second promise, and yet there was no sign of the tenants being put back. The season for putting in the crops was now upon them, and if they did not get possession of the land immediately it would be of little use to them for another year. In South Wexford, his constituency, the evicted tenants were the Boxwell tenants, the Coolroe tenants, and some isolated cases. The

Boxwell tenants and the Coolroe tenants had applied to their landlords to be allowed to purchase their farms, but both these gentlemen were standing out for excessive prices. He had heard hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite putting forward the theory that the evicted tenants would have been quietly paying their rents up to this day but for some terrible agitator like himself coming round and inducing them to rebel against their landlords and abandon their homes. No more preposterous theory ever entered the mind of man. The Irish farmer loved his home. His heart was in it, and he clung to it with a tenacity never understood on this side of the water; and the reason of this was that the house he lived in, the other houses on his farm, and all the improvements, were the work of himself or his predecessors in title. Nothing could induce him to desert that home except force, and as the Government supplied the force, the Government was in justice bound not only to reinstate him in his home, but to compensate him for all losses, because it evicted him for non-payment of an impossible rent.

In the cases he had referred to, no agitator or Member of Parliament went near the tenants, but they, like other evicted tenants, felt themselves becoming poorer and poorer owing to circumstances over which they had no control. They asked for reductions in their rents. They were refused. Then combinations were formed on the estates to try and obtain justice from their landlords, and then the landlords called out their reserves, which were the forces of the Crown, and evicted the tenants. The Boxwell tenants were paying 30s. an acre. He knew something about land. He had lived by it for thirty-five years, and he would venture to say that this land was not worth half the rent that the tenants were paying for it. Some of it was worth very much less, because it used to be flooded by the tide. The tenants built an embankment or sea-wall to keep out the tide. This embankment got out of repair and the land was flooded, and although the landlord persisted in rack-renting the tenants he refused to give any help to repair the embankment. The tenants asked for 6s. in the £ reduction and the landlord's reply was eviction. And now he would sell to the tenants at twenty-seven and a-half years purchase of the old rent. The Coolroe tenants had been just as badly treated, if not worse. He would respectfully ask the right hon. Gentleman the new Chief Secretary for Ireland how could such landlords be dealt with except by compulsion?

All agreed that the Irish land question must be settled, and yet the receivers and Land Commissioners were blocking sales and the Government never said *och hone*, or tried to mend matters. There were about a dozen firms of receivers making deals with landlords, negotiating fees. As a rule they demanded 5 per cent. for carrying out sales, that was to say, on a hundred millions of money those gentlemen netted five millions. The receivers were opposed to sales and were determined not to allow them if they could help it. Why should they part with the estates? Few people would part with their means of living. A man collecting £10,000 for which he got 5 per cent. for taking it from the tenant and handing it over to the landlord had an easy job and did not like to lose it. The Land Commissioners were also opposed to sales. They had fat salaries and they did not want to lose them; consequently, they sold as little land as they could. An ordinary estate of, say, forty tenants, worth £10,000, could be sold by an auctioneer and solicitor in a month or six weeks. Why should it take twelve months or more in the Land Commission? Because, of course, the Land Commission wanted to make the job hold out. It was time to put an end to this state of things by some drastic measure. The land was not being sold, the evicted tenants were not being restored, except at a snail's pace, and the Congested Districts Board was practically idle. The only measure that could meet this chronic state of things was compulsion. Parliament passed an Act and guaranteed about £112,000,000 to carry it out. The object of the Act was to make the tenant the owner. Then why not make him the owner? Pass a Bill of two or three sections giving him a vesting order that he was the owner. Fix the price, having regard to the circumstances of the land, the prices of agricultural products and competition in agriculture. Or they could adopt the method of giving the landlord his net income on the basis of second-term rents. Then lodge the money in the hands of the public trustee under the Land Act of 1903 and let the landlord prove his title. He would venture to say, if this were done, the land of Ireland would be sold in three or four years. Likely enough the Chancellor of the Exchequer would say he could not finance such a scheme. But why not ? They spent some £250,000,000 in the Transvaal; they had spent millions in Somaliland. And this all for war—killing people and grabbing their land. Would it not be better to spend a few millions in making peace with the Irish people, who would pay every penny of it back, whilst the money they spent in war was gone for ever. He begged to move.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.), in seconding the Motion, said it was not brought forward for the purpose of attacking the Estates Commissioners. The reason for that must be obvious to the Government. He and his friends were not in a position on the present occasion to say whether the Estates Commissioners were culpable or not. They had little or no information on which to form an opinion as to whether the Estates Commissioners, in the exercise of their administrative duties, had done the best they could to put in force the provisions of the Land Act of 1903, or whether they deserved censure. Although repeated assurances had been given that periodic Reports would be presented to the House in regard to the transactions of the Land Commissioners, they were to-day groping in the dark. All the information supplied to them was as to the number of tenants whose purchases had been sanctioned, the amount of money that had been advanced, and the number of years purchase paid. They did not know what the Estates Commissioners had done in the way of reinstating the evicted tenants or repatriating to the grass lands of Connaught the people driven off in former times.

The Motion alleged that the failure of the Land Act was largely due to the inflation of prices by the system of zones set up by that Act for the first time, and also that it had done little or nothing to relieve the congestion in the West and to distribute the grass lands in Connaught. They were told in 1903 that two of the main purposes of the Bill then before the House were to increase the uneconomic holdings in order to make them economic, and to reinstate the evicted tenants. The figures supplied the other day as to the working of the Land Act showed that advances amounting in all to £3,567,649 had been sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners; that the amount Connaught had got was £299,781, or something like 8 per cent. of the total. The province of Leinster, which, as everybody knew, was the richest province in Ireland as far as the natural quality of the land was concerned, had absorbed £2,028,548, and county Kildare had absorbed £862,068, or almost four times as much as the whole of the province of Connaught. [AN HON. MEMBER: The Duke of Leinster.] He was not going to say anything against the Duke of Leinster. If the tenants were satisfied to give the Duke exorbitant prices he did not see that it lay with him or anybody else to prevent them from doing so. But he said that the Duke of Leinster's estate afforded the best illustration of how the Irish ratepayers were being robbed under the Land Act of 1903.

He would take the case of the rental on the Duke's estate of £125 previous to the passing of the Land Act of 1881. Notwithstanding the fact that he owned that estate in the seventies, the Duke, as they must cheerfully acknowledge, allowed the tenants to break the leases and go into the Land Court. From that day until now he and his family had shown by their action that they had some regard for the interest of their tenants. After the passing of the Land Act of 1881 the Duke of Leinster anticipated what this House was compelled to do by the Plan of Campaign in 1887. If other landlords had followed the example of the Duke of Leinster much trouble would have been saved to the people of Ireland and to the British Government. In 1881 the Duke said to his tenants, "You can either go into Court or agree to a valuation." It was mutually agreed to appoint a valuer, and the tenants got a 20 per cent. reduction. Two estates were sold by the late Duke of Leinster immediately after the passing of the Ashbourne Act at eighteen years purchase on the judicial rent. The rack-rent of £125 was reduced by consent to £100, so that the land, which was afterwards sold at eighteen years purchase realised £1,800, which, at 4 per cent. amounted to an annuity of £72. On that occasion the manors of Maynooth and Castledermot were not sold and the reason was this. In 1881 the Duke of Leinster's tenants there asked for a reduction of rent commensurate with the fall in prices of cattle and sheep and the general depression in agricultural values, and he informed them that he was unable to give it because there was a mortgage of over £250,000 on the estates. When the estates were eventually sold they brought £343,000, and were in that way relieved of the mortgages. When the Act of 1887 first came into operation, and until the day the Duke of Leinster's trustees sold, a reduction of 12½ per cent. was allowed. Therefore it came to this, that the land which, before 1881, was rack-rented at £125, which was reduced in 1881 to £100, and which was again reduced under the Land Act of 1887 by a further 12½ per cent. to £87 10s., was sold under the Act of 1903 at twenty-five years purchase for £2,187 10s., while similar lands were sold under the Act of 1887 for £1,800. This was what had occurred under the Act of 1903, which they were told was to be the salvation of Ireland. He wished the House to remember that under the Ashbourne Act there was no bonus. He was told sometimes that the land did not secure the purchase money; but before ever the British Treasury would go to the land to realise their security or begin a campaign of eviction against the purchasers under the Act of 1903, the first thing they would do would be to come down on the Irish Development Fund, by which they would rob, not the farmers who had purchased the land, but the general body of ratepayers of Ireland.

Now, what had caused the inflation in the price of land in Ireland? While the Act of 1903 was before the House hon. Members were given to understand that the cause which was retarding the sale of land was that seventeen or eighteen years purchase were not sufficient when invested to give the landlord his net income, or what he might be supposed to consider his net income ought to be. For that reason the bonus of £12,000,000 was given to the Irish landlords, to be used as a bridge which would enable them to sell at the then current number of years purchase. Again, they were told that the Land Act of 1903 was not altogether intended for the benefit of the landlord, but that the tenant farmers might legitimately expect some advantage corresponding to the £12,000,000 of bonus which the landlords were getting. But what had happened? The tenant farmers of Ireland had not got that advantage; they had not received the reduction of the annuity charge from 4 per cent. to 3¼ per cent. In fact, they had been swindled out of that reduction. It was the reduction from 4 per cent. to 3¼ per cent. which compelled the Treasury to extend the time of repayment under the Ashbourne Act to forty-two years under the Act of 1903. Then, they were told that the essence of the Land Act of 1903 was voluntary sale and purchase. He agreed; but what was the use of telling him that this was a voluntary measure, that he need not purchase if he did not wish to do so, and that he could still continue a tenant farmer and could bring his landlord into Court and have a fair rent fixed. In order to force the Irish tenant farmer into a bargain with his landlord, which he knew was not a fair bargain, and to give the landlord five, six, or seven years purchase more than under the Ashbourne Act, the landlord used the question of arrears and the hanging gale. He would give the House a few instances which would prove to the hilt that the landlords were making use of the poverty of the tenants to extract from them a rent far in excess of what the land was worth, and what was obtained, under Government sanction, under the Ashbourne Act.

In King's County there was an estate owned by Colonel Williams. The land agent on that estate, Mr. Coutts, was for fifteen or sixteen years always satisfied to receive from the tenants one year's rent every twelve months; and did not press for any arrears due previous to the time he became agent. Unfortunately for the tenants that gentleman resigned his position and went abroad. A Mr. Fowler from Kerry became agent instead. This estate was offered to be sold six years ago for eighteen years purchase under the Balfour Act; but since Mr. Fowler became agent he was proceeding against the tenants for arrears of rent due during the famine time, and for arrears of hanging gale due fifty years ago. He did not allege for a moment that the owner of the estate, Colonel Williams, had instigated those proceedings; but it was peculiar that this property, which was offered for sale six years ago at eighteen years purchase, which the tenants would not consent to pay because it was too high, was now considered by the new agent to be worth twenty-six years purchase. The reason was that the agent desired to drive the tenants into an improvident bargain. Every hon. Member who was acquainted with the agricultural value of land knew that during the last ten or fifteen years, instead of the agricultural value of land having increased by six or seven years purchase, it had decreased by six or seven years purchase. A tenant in county Clare, named Down, had his rent fixed in 1881 at £14 under the Ashbourne Act. That tenant went into Court and asked to have a second-term rent fixed; but the Commissioner, Mr. Esmonde, who knew nothing whatever of the land in county Clare or its climatic conditions, confirmed the rent at £14, the same as in 1881. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary if he was getting, as a landlord, the same rent for agricultural land in 1904 as he was in 1881? There was another extraordinary case. A Miss Gibson went into Court in 1888 and had a rent fixed at £90, but the landlord had to contribute half the rates and taxes, which brought the rent down to £75; but Mr .Esmonde fixed the second-term rent of the same farm at £84 7s. 6d. Deliberately, and with full knowledge, he charged Mr. Esmonde, and lay Commissioners like him, with being in a conspiracy with the landlords to compel the tenants to purchase at any price. It was part and parcel of the attempt made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover in the Bill he introduced in the House in 1902 to provide that any tenant who refused to purchase could not get a fair rent fixed. He understood that Mr. Esmonde alleged that one factor in calculating Miss Gibson's second-term rent at £84 was the proximity of the farm to the pier at Carrigaholt. Now, that pier was built long before the Act of 1881 was passed and was only used by fishermen. He did not believe that a single ton of agricultural produce had been landed or exported from that pier ever since it was built. He maintained that the Act of 1903 had not succeeded in curing the congestion of the population in certain districts of Ireland, and that the promises made to the Irish tenant farmers as to the results of the Act had all been falsified.

The right hon. Member for Dover told them that one of the main intentions of the Act was to enable the uneconomic holdings of Ireland to become economic holdings, and to bring the people into a position which would give them a chance of gaining a decent living. The hon. Member for South Antrim talked the other day about the immorality of the United Irish Land League. He was proud to be a member of that League, which was the descendant of the old Land League; and it was the Land League which made the landlords of Ireland first sit up, and compelled the Government to pass its many Land Acts. It would be the United Irish Land League which would finally settle the land question in Ireland. There was an estate in the West of Ireland which was in Judge Ross's Court. A requisition was presented by the Estates Commissioners for the sale of that estate a considerable time ago, but Judge Ross made no answer to the requisition and said publicly in his Court that he would not sell because there was boycotting in the neighbourhood—the boycotting taking the form of throwing down several hundred yards of a boundary wall. He could say to the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General for Ireland that he was not there to apologise for that action, but to tell the House the cause of it. One of the main provisions of the Act of 1903 was to increase the size of uneconomic holdings on estates where there were untenanted lands. Now, on the estate to which he referred there were seventeen tenants, the valuation of whose holdings ranged from 10s. up to £5 per annum. Could it be said that these were economic holdings? Why did Judge Ross refuse to sell the estate to the Estates Commissioners? He would tell the House why. In that particular neighbourhood there lived an informer, a common spy, who supplied the hon. Member for South Antrim with some of his bogus facts; in that neighbourhood there lived Lord Ashtown—

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.): What facts are bogus? [Cries from the IRISH Benches: Sit down.] I rise to a point of order. The hon. Member has accused me of have given information to this House of a bogus nature. I submit that that statement should be withdrawn.

*MR. SPEAKER: No; what was said was that someone had furnished the hon. Member with information of a bogus nature. [AN IRISH MEMBER: You've got your answer.]

MR. KILBRIDE said that some of the bogus information supplied to the hon. Member opposite was supplied by Lord Ashtown With regard to the estate of William Thomas Gallaway, deceased, they were not compelled to sell the estate under the 40th section because it was not a bankrupt estate, but if it was the intention of the framers of the Act that it should work, surely in regard to a property like this they were not going to allow Lord Ashtown to frustrate the intention of Parliament, and allow him to buy an estate over the heads of the tenants. When he heard indignant denunciations of the United Irish League for what they had done in cases of this kind he was reminded of the words used by the Leader of the House on a memorable occasion when he said, "Human endurance had its limits." He agreed that there were limits to human endurance, especially when an Act of Parliament, passed to relieve a most abominable state of affairs which was a disgrace to the Government of the country, was being frustrated in this way. It was disgraceful that these poor people who had to live in hovels should be prevented from getting what Parliament intended they should have by the action of a wealthy Lord.

The question of the evicted tenants had been alluded to. So far only £3,500 had been expended out of the £250,000 Irish money apportioned for the reinstatement of evicted persons. There was an extraordinary difference of procedure when it was a question of repatriating Irishmen and resettling the Boers. When they wanted to repatriate Irishmen £3,500 was considered sufficient, but £3,000,000 was voted by the House to repatriate the Boers, and this was done for men who had been up in arms against this country. That was a magnificent performance. Until the question of the evicted tenants was settled he assured the right hon. Gentleman that the Irish land question could not be settled. He hoped the Chief Secretary or the Attorney-General would be able to tell them something about the public trustee. What was he doing and what had he done? Was it a fact that the trustees of the Leinster property had invested the proceeds of the sale of that estate at £4 1s. per cent.? That took away altogether the landlord's argument that he must get twenty-five years purchase.

A case had been brought before the Chief Secretary for Ireland as to how the zone system had inflated the price of land. There was the case of the Blake Foster Estate which was partly in the county of Clare and partly in the county of Galway. This estate was offered for sale by the late proprietor, and it was agreed that £6,000 should be the price. When the inspector, on behalf of the Treasury, went to ascertain whether there was sufficient security for the advance, he reported that there was not, and Mr. Wrench, who was then a Land Commissioner, made a minute that it was valued only for a single pound of advance. The property was transferred to the mortgagees, a Scotch Insurance Company. They employed in the West of Ireland a very astute man, and he found that five or six years arrears of rent were due. The first thing he did was to offer to relieve the tenants of a certain amount of those arrears if they would sign agreements fixing second-term rents, and they signed the agreements. This agent's name was Mr. Holmes, and he brought those agreements to the Land Commission offices and said, "Here are a number of fair-rent agreements." There was no inquiry at all, and the whole thing went through. These agreements were registered as second-term rents and Mr. Holmes went back to the tenants and sold the land to them at twenty-four or twenty-five years purchase. Having brought those tenants within the zones Mr. Holmes obtained an advance of £9,000 under this beneficent Act of 1903 for an estate which, under the previous Purchase Acts, a Government inspector had declared was not security for £6,000, and which Mr. Wrench had stated was not security for a single sovereign. Was it any wonder that they complained? It had been laid down that if property was bought within the zones the Estates Commissioners had no option. The House had often heard of the evictions on the Sneem Warden Estate. This was originally in the hands of the Blands, but, unfortunately, they were obliged to sell, and it was sold in the Encumbered Estates Court at eleven years purchase to a Yorkshireman, who increased the rents very considerably. This Yorkshireman had recently sold this estate under the Land Act of 1903, and he had succeeded in getting agreements signed by insolvent tenants, who had purchased at twenty-four years purchase, and he was going to make a very nice thing out of it. The House should also remember that this gentleman got a nice little matter of 12 per cent. bonus. An agent would agree with a tenant at twenty years purchase at a rental of £20, making the amount £400. An agreement was made between the landlord and tenant at twenty-five years purchase at a rental of £20 and that made the amount £500. Meantime the landlord went to the tenant and gave him £100, and why? Because he would get it all back from the Estates Commissioners as well as the 12 per cent. bonus..

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): I do not think that is an honest transaction on the part of either party. Is the hon. Member referring to a case that has actually occurred, because there is power to quash such a transaction

Mr. KILBRIDE said he expected that the right hon. Gentleman would give that answer. He believed it was a fraud on the part of both, but why did the tenant do it? The cheapness of the money was the inducement to the tenant to be a party to the fraud, and the inducement to the landlord was the 12 per cent. He was not talking in his hat. He did not wish to give the name of the party, but if this practice continued he should not hesitate to furnish the Attorney-General with all the particulars, and request him to do what his colleague did in the Whitaker Wright case. A friend of his sold an estate not within the zones at sixteen years purchase. It was bad land, but it was as good as the land sold before at sixteen years purchase. Before he sold it he did not get the tenants to sign second-term judicial leases in order to bring them within the zones which would have avoided inspection. In the case of one of these tenants the total amount of the purchase money came to £47 at sixteen years purchase. An inspector was sent down and he reported that it was only security for £30. Upon an estate close by owned by an avaricious landlord the tenants were compelled to sign second-term leases and he succeeded in getting twenty-five years purchase, or more than double what similar land had been valued at by the inspector. This Bill was intended to settle the land question. It was intended to relieve the congested and poverty-stricken parts of Ireland, and restore the wounded soldiers of the land war to their holdings, but, unless a new leaf were turned in the administration of the Land Act of 1903, the present Chief Secretary would retire from his office with the same feelings as his predecessor.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House is of opinion that the system of limits within which the Estates Commissioners are obliged to advance the prices of farms in Ireland without inquiring as to the sufficiency of the security has had an effect disastrous to the interests of the tenant farmers and the general ratepayers of Ireland; and that the Land Act of 1903 has utterly failed to effect one of its main objects in remedying the congestion of the population in certain districts of Ireland and providing the people with economic holdings; and that this failure can only be remedied by the grant of compulsory powers to the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board for the purchase of estates declared by them to be congested estates, and of untenanted lands necessary for the relief of congestion."—(*Mr. Ffrench.*)

Mr. Kilbride.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): It is a little difficult in any circumstances, to deal with this question as it has been put before the House to-night, but it is especially difficult when the House realises that in the two speeches which have been made the case has been so fully dealt with, and if I may say so, with a wealth of detail which makes it almost impossible for the representative of the Government to reply upon the case as stated. Let me turn to the general issue.

Whatever differences of opinion there may be now as to the merits of the Act of 1903, there is no difference as to the object with which that Act was passed and the effects which it was hoped the Act would produce. The speeches to which the House has listened do not suggest that those effects are within reasonable distance of attainment yet. The object of the mover of this Resolution is to show that the operations under the Act have been attended by inflated prices to the owners of the land. But what led to the passing of this Act? What was the conclusion to which Parliament was brought face to face by facts to which it could not shut its eyes? The real difficulty in connection with previous Purchase Acts was that under them only those landlords sold who could afford to accept the prices of the tenants—who had other resources, in fact Those who had not other resources found it difficult to bring the land into the market.

It is perfectly true that the landlords who came in in those early sales were those who could afford to part with their land, who sold because they found the Act advantageous, and who had other reserves. But only the very fringe of the Irish land question had been touched. You wanted to found a system by which it would be made worth the while of the owners of land who had not other reserves, who had only a very small margin, if any, to sell their land; and you developed this scheme of voluntary purchase, and induced the British taxpayer not only to find £100,000,000 for the purposes of the loan, but also to add £12,000,000 by way of bonus, to make it possible for many of the smaller landlords to sell. They are the very men you want to buy out, because their opportunities for providing for themselves are small, and their opportunities of doing justice to their tenants are almost nil. This Act for the first time offers these facilities to the owners of that particular class of land, and how, in the name of justice, can you describe it as a failure when it has been in operation for less than two years? What, after all, have been its results? Already £20,000,000 have been applied for—representing one-fifth of the agricultural holdings in Ireland. It is perfectly true that only a small percentage of those have been dealt with. But why? Are the arguments which have been adduced, the cases which have been cited, the indictments which have been made—are they the reasons why the Land Act of 1903 has not made more rapid progress? Everybody knows that the real difficulty is not that here and there prices have varied, or that here and there landlords have got enough for their land to enable them to live in decency for the rest of their days; the real difficulty is the financial difficulty to which reference was made last night. I cannot say what opportunities I may have, or how far I may be able to take advantage of those opportunities, of doing something to facilitate the working of the Act, but I believe that the financial difficulty is the paramount difficulty, and that if hon. Members opposite wish to do anything to solve the land problem they will not help the Irish Government by throwing doubt on the Act which has had almost unparalleled success.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): The landlords cheer that.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I am very glad they do. The Act was devised and carried for the purpose of transferring the land from the landlords to the tenants, and if its operations so far as they have gone are cheered by the landlords' representatives, I think that any fair-minded man will not say that that is no condemnation of the Act.

Mr. FLAVIN: I have no objection to the land being sold if it is sold at a fair price.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I think there has been in this debate, as there is in the interruption of the hon. Member, a tendency to judge this Act by one test and one alone, viz., that of the price paid for the land. Surely those who represent the tenants will admit that there is another test which may with equal fairness be applied. Under the Act the average purchase price has been 22.9 years purchase. But what have been the advantages to the tenant? I do not admit that that is an excessive price, nor do I deny that there have been variations. Under the principle of voluntary purchase there must be variations, and I believe that the average price is a fair price. But the tenant has directly received the benefit of a reduction on the annual payment representing his rental of 25·9 per cent. That is application has already been made in the Courts for one-fifth of the land in Ireland, the average price paid to the owners of the land represents twenty-two and a-half years purchase, and the reduction to the tenants in their anual payment is equal to over 25 per cent. Can it be contended by any fair-minded man that that is a record which spells failure for the Act ?

The mover of the Resolution submitted that the zone system was one of the causes of the failure of the Act. But the zone system is the very essence of the Act. We have been told that tenants have been practically coerced into giving unfair prices for the land. If that is so, there is a provision in the Act which I do not say would have made that impossible, but of which, at all events, the tenants might have availed themselves. Such an argument can always be fortified by individual cases. The hon. Member for South Kildare appealed to me as an English landowner as to what my experience was. I venture to say that if the sales of agricultural land in England for the last ten years are investigated, it will be found that there have been exactly the same variations as are found in Ireland. The hon. Member instanced the case of a farm sold for so many years purchase, and of another farm of the same character which fetched a very much higher price. But that is the commonest experience of everyone connected with land purchase in this country.

Mr. KILBRIDE said that his point was that in the case of the farm which was sold for sixteen years purchase without the zones, the inspector from the Land Commission refused to certify that it was security for the advance, whereas in the case of the farm of a similar character sold within the zones for twenty-five years purchase without inspection, the Estates Commissioners advanced the money.

Mr. WALTER LONG: It is impossible to go into every individual case without having the full particulars before one. I was not dealing with the individual case; I was replying to the general charge. The hon. Member challenged me, as one acquainted with agricultural affairs in England, to say whether there had been any instances within the last ten years in England which could be compared with the cases he cited, and I say that the hon. Member may take any decade he pleases, and he will find that, whether the general value has been rising or falling, there have been exactly the same variations of prices. Those variations are due to a multitude of causes of which it is impossible to judge by a bare statement of a partisan on one side or the other.

This Act must be judged, not by the comparatively trifling instances which have been cited, but on the broad general facts which can be put forward in its support. Subject only to the fact that the originator of this Act was a colleague of my own, and that to that extent I had an interest in it, I bring to its examination as the head of the Irish Executive for the time being a perfectly open and impartial mind, and I do not hesitate to say that the more I examine into its operation, and the more I realise what its work and actual effects have been, the more I marvel at the success which has attended it. Why is it indicted to-night ? By what justification is it held to be a failure because the landlords have obtained a fair price? Everybody who does not wish the Act to operate to the destruction of the landlords must realise that if it had not worked fairly to the landlords the Act would have been a failure, because it would have come to an end. The hon. Member says the Act is a failure because it is a voluntary Act. Why is it based upon voluntary purchase? Because you have never yet been able to invent a system other than that for Ireland, or for any other country, which was likely to be successful in the two directions in which alone success can be secured, viz., those of inducing the landlords to sell, and of making it worth the tenants' while to buy. Are you going to do that by compulsory purchase? Where has it yet been found that compulsory purchase leads to economical treatment and cheap sales? During the short time I was in Ireland I made it my business to inquire on this point of some gentlemen acquainted with the question.

AN HON. MEMBER: Landlords!

MR. WALTER LONG: No, they were not landlords.

AN HON. MEMBER: Then they were in Dublin Castle.

MR. WALTER LONG: No, they were not. They happened to be on board the steamer.

AN HON. MEMBER: In a storm!

MR. WALTER LONG: No, the storm was on the way to Ireland; the return journey was quite calm. I asked a gentleman of considerable experience what he thought of compulsion—whether he thought it facilitated the cheap buying of land; and he confirmed what, I believe, is the experience of everybody who has had anything to do with the sale of land; viz., that compulsory powers lead to a much more expensive system. ["Name."] It is unnecessary that I should give the name. Does anybody believe that by compulsion you get land more cheaply or more easily than by voluntary arrangement?

MR. EDWARD MITCHELL (Fermanagh, N.) asked what the right hon. Gentleman proposed to do with landlords who refused to sell at any price.

MR. WALTER LONG: If landlords will not sell at any price and you have not compulsory powers, it is obvious that you cannot get their land. But if you have compulsory powers there is this difficulty. If you have compulsory powers to exercise against recalcitrant landlords, what are you going to do to all the landlords who now come in and sell on fair terms? If you are to use your compulsory powers only upon one set of landlords, upon what terms are you going to exercise them? The question of the hon. Member presupposes that a majority of the landlords will sell voluntarily. Therefore, you are to exercise compulsion against the minority. But upon what system or basis? Are you going to compel them to sell on terms which hon. Members have denounced tonight as extravagant? What, after all, is the best inducement? There is a great deal in what has been said about that part of Ireland in which it is more desirable than in any other that these sales should be carried out. Where the difficulty exists in its most acute form it is unfortunately true that these sales have been very small indeed as compared with other parts of the country, and I should be very glad indeed if anything could be done by the Government to alter that condition of things. But does my hon. friend who recommends compulsion believe that you will solve the difficulty in that part of the country by obtaining compulsory powers to force the landlords to sell? Does he believe that thereby the difficulty with regard to price will be met? I do not believe the difficulty will be solved, either in the West of Ireland or elsewhere, by such wholesale measures as have been suggested. The advantages already flowing from this Act are, I think, apparent to every student of the question and to everybody who desires—as the majority of the people of this country desire—to see Ireland happier, more contented, and more prosperous. For my part, I would rather trust to the effect of this conviction upon the minds of landlord and tenant in the West of Ireland than to the exercise of compulsory powers. I cannot speak yet with that local knowledge which I hope I may be able to acquire in one of those motor tours to which reference has been made, and I feel that until one has seen these cases on the spot, and realises what they mean, it is difficult and perhaps dangerous to commit one's self at all upon them. I repeat, however, that I believe the difficulty for which we have to find a solution is that of providing the money which must be found if the Estates Commissioners are to let the sales go on.

The mover of the Resolution said that at the present rate of progress it would be thirty years before the land of Ireland changed hands. I think he has not realised two things—first, that it is only a little over a year since the Act came into operation, and secondly, that the Estates Commissioners, who have worked hard to make the Act a success, have had to put the whole scheme into working order, to invent their machinery, and to approach various estates with little experience as to how best to deal with them. I think it is not unfair to assume that, if in the first twelve months one-fifth of the land of Ireland has been applied for, in a much shorter period than thirty years the Act will have conferred upon Ireland the almost indescribable benefit of the transference of the land from the present owners to those who are now only occupiers. I believe that the financial difficulty is the only one that can be regarded as really serious. It is impossible for me to deal with the whole question to-night. There are the questions of the evicted tenants and uneconomic holdings. There has been a great deal of controversy as to the respective responsibility of the Executive Government and the Estates Commissioners. I quite agree that it is right and desirable that the House and the country should be able to judge of the responsibility of the Executive Government, on the one hand, and of the Estates Commissioners on the other; and I hope I may settle this controversy once and for all by saying that it is my intention to lay on the Table as soon as I can the regulations which I propose to issue to the Commissioners, setting forth the view of the Executive as to the way in which their duties should be performed. Further, I wish the House to understand that if, in my judgment, it is necessary to alter those regulations in any way, I shall consider it part of my duty to lay the amended regulations on the Table. Certainly I can safely say that it would be most undesirable that there should be active interference by the Executive with the Commissioners with regard to any particular case or any detail of their work, and the regulations will be directed to guide them generally in the discharge of their duties. Reference has been made to my connection with the Act constituting the London Water Board and the financial interests there involved. I believe that my experience in that matter will be of some little value. Questions affecting the security of property have to be considered, and I am not going hurriedly or rashly to make any declaration on the subject, but I can assure the House that I shall do my best to remove the obstacles which only temporarily, I believe, stand in the way of the complete and successful development of the Act.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.) said that this debate was to be regarded only as the opening of the question, and that the earliest opportunity would be taken to bring the matter forward again. To judge whether the Act had been a success or a failure it was necessary to look into more considerations than the right hon. Gentleman had put forward. It was not enough to look at the number of applications; regard must be had to their character and the portion of the country from which they came. The object of the Act was to settle the Irish land question, and that end would not be secured until the evicted tenants had been reinstated and the problem of congestion solved. Practically nothing had been done in those directions and therefore they were justified in saying the Act was a failure. Their claim for compulsion was rejected by the late Chief Secretary, not on the ground of principle, but because he did not think it would be necessary.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 104; Noes, 139. (Division List No. 76.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Ambrose, Robert
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Burke, E. Haviland-
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Delany, William
Dobbie, Joseph
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, Capt EC(S.Andrw'sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt Hn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Johnson, John
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.)
Kilbride, Denis
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)

O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'KellyJames(Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Richards Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas David Alfred(Merthyr)
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,ArthurWalters(N.Dorset)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wood, James
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen,Augustus HenryEden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster,Rt.Hn.Hugh O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour,Rt. Hn. A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bowles,Lt.-Col.H.F(Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish,V. C.W.(Derbyshire)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHn. J.A.(Worc)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt.Hn.Sir John C. R.
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Craig, CharlesCurtis(Antrim,S.)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies Sir HoratioD.(Chatham)
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dorington, Rt.Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir WilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Garfit, William
Godson,Sir AugustusFrederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Heath,Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath,SirJames(Staffords.NW)
Heaton, John Henniker
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James HenryCecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Kennaway,Rt.Hn.Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawson,John Grant(Yorks.N.R
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long,Rt. Hn.Walter (Bristol,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth)
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,SirLewis(EdinburghW)
Majendie, James A. H.
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Milvain, Thomas
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walth'mstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Parkes, Ebenezer
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Pummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone,W.)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith,RtHnJ.Parker(Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H(Sheffi'ld)
Walrond, Rt.Hn.Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col.ACE (Taunton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon.C. B. Stuart-
Wylie, Alexander

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

Adjourned at thirteen minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 22nd March, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (GROUP C).

Mr. Stevenson reported from the Committee on Group C of Private Bills; That, for the convenience of parties, the Committee had adjourned until Friday, at Twelve of the clock.

Report to lie upon the Table.

London Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

Gas Light and Coke, South Metropolitan, and Commercial Gas Companies Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Sale of Bread (London) Bill. Reported [Preamble not proved]; Report to lie upon the Table.

PETITIONS.

HOUSE LETTING (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions against; from Falkirk; and Glasgow; to lie upon the Table.

LANDS VALUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petition from Aylesbury, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NORTH SEA INCIDENT.

Copy presented, of Reports thereon by the Commissioners appointed by the Board of Trade, with covering Memorandum by Sir Francis Hopwood, K.C.B., C.M.G., Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY CLOTHING FACTORY.

Annual Account presented, of the Royal Army Clothing Factory for the year 1903–4, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 91.]

NATIONAL GALLERY, ETC. (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Eleventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and Trustees of the Board of Manufactures in Scotland, being for the year ending 30th September, 1904, [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPER LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Irish Land Commission (Account). Copy of Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General upon the Account of the Irish Land Commission for the year ended 31st March, 1904 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 92.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Reports on Erosion of Sea Cliffs around British Coast.

Mr. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether reports are periodically made to the Admiralty by the coastguards as to the erosion of the sea cliffs around the British coast, and as to the removal of shingle and other material from the beaches; and whether any, and if any what, action is taken upon such reports.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The coastguard officers report to the Association for the Advancement of Science observations of coast changes; and to the Board of Trade the removal of shingle and other material from the beaches; but no periodical reports are made as to erosion of sea cliffs around the British coast.

Head Post Offices in Derbyshire.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can give the names and populations of the towns in the county of Derby which are classed as head post offices, excluding the county borough of Derby;

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

and state how many of these towns exceed in population the borough of Ilkeston, which is classed as a railway sub-office.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Some towns with head offices in Derbyshire and many elsewhere have a smaller population than Ilkeston; but this is not a reason for giving Ilkeston a head office, since the population of a town is not the principal consideration in determining whether a head post office should be placed there. I do not think, therefore, that any useful purpose would be served by giving the detailed information for which the hon. Member asks.

Motor Speed Limit in London Parks.

Sir CHARLES CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether the regulations providing for a speed limit of ten miles per hour for motor-cars proceeding through the London parks have been ratified by Parliament; and, if so, whether he will issue instructions (the limit of speed outside the parks being twenty miles per hour) to warn drivers by means of a large placard or danger signal to slow down to the regulation speed on entering the parks.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The Answer to the first paragraph is in the affirmative; the rules under which the regulation limiting the speed of cars to ten miles per hour is made having been duly laid upon the Table of both Houses of Parliament. A notice has been posted at the entrances to the parks warning motorists of the limit of speed.

Terms of Purchase on the Wolseley Estate, Cloneygowan (King's County).

Mr. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the tenants on the Wolseley Estate, Cloneygowan, King's County, offered to purchase their holdings at nineteen years purchase for first-term and non-judicial rents, and twenty-one and a-half years purchase for second-term rents; that this offer was accepted at the sale of the estate in the Land Judge's Court on the 27th of October last; and that when about to sign the final agreements some of the tenants were called upon to agree to terms in excess of the Land Judge's Court's decision by from one year's to two years purchase; and, if so, whether he will take steps to secure that the decision of the Court shall be binding on the vendors.

(*Answered by Mr. Atkinson.*) The Land Judge, when approving of the sale to the tenants, directed that certain sums should be paid by them in respect of arrears of rent, and indicated that application should be made to the Land Commission to increase the advances accordingly. The Land Commission are prepared to increase the advances to the required extent if the tenants make the necessary application.

Manufacture of Rifles and Bayonets—Discharges at Government Factories.

Colonel BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office what sum of the £325,000 devoted to rifles and bayonets in the Estimates it is proposed to expend at the Enfield Factory; and why is the Estimate for rifles and bayonets £6,000 in excess of the amount spent last year, when so many men have received notice of discharge at Enfield and Sparkbrook.

(*Answered by Mr. Bromley Davenport.*) The amount available for rifles and bayonets next year is £443,000, as compared with £606,000 for the current year. In both years additions to the amounts shown in Estimates have to be made for orders from India, the Navy, and the Colonies. It is not possible to state at present what orders will be allocated to Enfield.

The Land Tax.

Mr. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will state on what basis was the land tax fixed on agricultural land in 1798, and what amount it was calculated to bring in per acre to the revenue then; how much land tax has been redeemed since that time, in what sum has the National Debt or other Government stock been reduced thereby, and what does this redemption money represent as paid per acre for the agricultural land redeemed; what amount does the land tax bring in now; and what does this represent per acre of unredeemed agricultural land.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) For the year 1798 the sum of £2,037,627 was directed to be raised by a land tax to be charged upon (1) Personal estate; (2) Salaries of public officers, etc., and (3) Houses, lands, and all other hereditaments. The total amount obtained from houses, lands, and other hereditaments for that year was £1,905,077. The amount of land tax payable by each parish or place for the year 1798 in respect of houses, lands, and other hereditaments therein, became fixed by the Act of that year as the amount to be paid by such parish or place annually in perpetuity in respect of the houses, lands, and other hereditaments therein (which were directed to be assessed by a pound rate), subject, however, to redemption. The total amount redeemed up to the 31st March, 1904, was £934,523; and resulting from such redemption the National Debt has been reduced by about £33,000,000. The amount unredeemed is £970,554; but, under the provisions of the Finance Acts of 1896 and 1898, about £230,000 thereof is remitted annually, so that the amount brought in by this tax is now about £740,000. It is not possible to give any details of the amounts charged or redeemed in respect of agricultural land alone, as the tax is not confined to agricultural land, but is charged upon all hereditaments, and contributed by each parish as a whole.

Extra Cost Involved by Meeting of Congested Districts Board in London.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that a meeting of the Congested Districts Board, under the chairmanship of Sir Antony MacDonnell and including the Roman Catholic Bishop of Raphoe and the Rev. Denis O'Hara and five other gentlemen, was held at the Irish Office, London, on the 15th instant; whether, seeing that every one of the gentlemen present is ordinarily resident in Ireland, he will say for what reason or to suit whose convenience was this meeting held in London; and what is the extra cost involved thereby.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) It has been the Board's practice for many years to hold in London the meeting at which their annual estimates are discussed and prepared, the object being that the Chief Secretary may be able to preside without interruption to his Parliamentary duties. I was unavoidably prevented from attending the recent meeting. The extra cost involved was about £50.

Supply of Seed Oats for the Belmullet Union.

Mr. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Belmullet District Council have repeatedly impressed on the Local Government Board the necessity of supplying seed oats in that union; and whether, in view of the almost total failure of the crop in Belmullet Union last year, he will urge the Local Government Board to reconsider their decision with a view to granting the request of the Belmullet Council.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Two resolutions of the Belmullet guardians to the effect mentioned have been received by the Local Government Board. The Board are satisfied that no necessity exists for including seed oats in the seed supply operations of this year.

Seed Potatoes for Belmullet Union—Repayment of Cost.

Mr. O'KELLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will take into consideration the resolution recently passed by the Belmullet District Council asking that the repayment of the cost of seed potatoes issued this year may be collected in four instalments instead of two as formerly.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The two instalments of the seed supply loan in this case will not be collected until after 1st April, 1906, and 1st April, 1907 respectively. Inasmuch as the rates to be struck in each year are collectable in two moieties, the repayment for the seed will practically be made in four instalments.

Supervisors at Belmullet and Binghamstown—Case of Messrs. Munnelly and Gaughan.

Mr. O'KELLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the grounds on which Mr. Michael Munnelly and Michael Gaughan were relieved of their positions as local supervisors of the parish committee works under the Congested Districts Board in the parishes of Belmullet and Binghamstown, county Mayo; and why their work was transferred to an official already in the Board's service.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The persons named were not relieved of their positions as supervisors. The Board objected to their appointment as such in the first instance, in the case of Mr. Munnelly because he was a district councillor and therefore ineligible, and in the case of Mr. Gaughan because an officer of the Board was available for the work. Mr. Munnelly has since resigned his district councillorship, and both he and Mr. Gaughan have been appointed supervisors.

Gun Licences in Ireland—Case of Mr. Michael Munnelly.

Mr. O'KELLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state any reason why Mr. Michael Munnelly, rural district councillor, of Carramore, Bangor, Erris (Belmullet Union), has been refused a licence to carry a gun.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The question of the issue of an arms licence is one for the consideration of the resident magistrate, who is the licensing officer of the district. It would be contrary to the invariable practice to state the reasons which actuated the licensing officer in declining, in the exercise of his discretion, to grant a licence in any particular case.

Winchelsea and Rye Military Road—Suggested Transfer to Local Authorities.

Dr. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can see his way to putting the military road between Winchelsea and Rye in proper repair and handing it over to the local authority so as to get rid of the tollgate, which is a hindrance to trade and communication between the two towns.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The whole question is at present under consideration.

Income-Tax Systems in British Colonies and Foreign Countries.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Return relating to systems of graduated and differentiated income-tax in British Colonies, ordered on 11th August, 1904, will be presented before the Budget discussions begin; and whether this Return can be published simultaneously with the similar information relating to foreign countries which the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs undertook, on 10th August, 1904, that the Foreign Office would endeavour to obtain.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) Replies to the circular despatch asking for these Returns have been received from some of the Colonies, but several of the more important, including Canada, New Zealand, and some of the Australian States, have not yet answered. I am consequently unable to say when these Returns will be ready, but I am telegraphing to ask that they may be sent to me as soon as possible. I fear that there is no probability of their reaching me in time to be published with the Foreign Office Returns.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Cost of the British Infantryman.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the cost of the infantry soldier quartered in England in the items of pay, clothing, rifles, accoutrements, ammunition, and rifle ranges; and also the total additional cost per man of barracks, rations, barrack services, churches, schools, workshops, medical attendance, married quarters, and all establishments necessitated by our present system.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT, Cheshire, Macclesfield): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer the Questions addressed to the War Department to-day. The pay, clothing, arms, and accoutrements for an infantry soldier at home represent a money value of £40 3s. The other items referred to in the Question amount to about £28. No separate figures are available for infantry as regards this part of the Question.

1st Scottish Horse—Overpayments to Officers and Men.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to certain statements made by the Comptroller-General in regard to the 1st Regiment of Scottish Horse, according to which it would appear that overpayments have been made to the officers and men of the regiment; and whether it is intended to take any steps to recover these amounts.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Every effort was made to effect any possible recoveries before the loss was written off. The officer acting as Corps Paymaster, who was responsible for the loss, was deprived of his war gratuity, but, in view of his inexperience, it was held that no further penalty should be inflicted.

MR LABOUCHERE: Does the hon. Gentleman not know that a very large sum was lost, and does he think that a sufficient penalty?

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Not so very large, Sir. I think about £180.

South African War—Jam Contract Scandal.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the statement of the Comptroller-General that he requested the War Office to tell him what were the terms of certain contracts in regard to jam for the troops in South Africa, and to his further statement that to the inquiries which were addressed to the War Office on April 26th, 1904, he had, up to the present, received no reply; why there was this delay in replying; and whether he will communicate to the House what were the terms of these contracts.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General is open to convey an impression which I am sure is not intended. It is true that a final reply is only now being sent, but intimations that the question was receiving consideration were sent to him. I regret the long delay, which was mainly due to the necessity of correspondence with South Africa, and with the representatives of the Colonies concerned.

Royal Yeomanry Expenditure in South Africa.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has observed the statement in the Report of the Comptroller-General, recently laid upon the Table of the House, in regard to the Royal Yeomanry embodied during the late South African War, that out of the total sum granted, £1,265,000, it appears that for more than one-third (£460,000) no details or vouchers were produced; and, if so, will he explain why this money was paid by the War Office without vouchers or details, and whether this is the usual practice of that office in regard to such payments.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Will the hon. Member kindly refer to the reply which my right hon. friend gave yesterday† to a Question put on this subject by the hon. Member for North Camberwell.

Cost of South African Irregular Forces—Deficiency of Vouchers.

MR. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has noticed the statements of the Comptroller-General in his Report, recently laid upon the Table of the House, that the deficiency on the final pay list of the Rhodesian Regiment was £7,096 19s. 6d., and will he say whether this regiment formed part of the forces raised by the British South Africa Company; that the deficiency on the accounts of a Cape Colony Volunteer corps employed during the war was £1,475 12s., and the deficiency on the accounts of the South Africa Mounted Irregular Corps depôts £3,050 6s. 9d.; and, if so, whether he can explain how these sums came to be paid by the War Office, and if any steps have been, or are being, taken for their repayment; whether his attention has been called to the statement that the expenditure by the British South Africa Company in respect of stores and for the equipment of the Rhodesian Field Force imperfectly vouched was £36,575; and, if so, will he say what was the amount imperfectly vouched; why it was paid without vouchers; what is the total amount paid to the South Africa Company in regard to war expenditure; and how much of this was not vouched for, or full details submitted to the War Office.

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† See page 636.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The three corps first mentioned in the Question were raised or called out for Imperial purposes and were paid from Army funds. Any deficiencies in their accounts which were attributed to war exigencies were therefore borne by Army funds. Every effort has been made to recover the monies due, which were, generally speaking, overpayments to men. The Rhodesian Regiment did not form part of the forces raised by the British South Africa Company. The greater part of the deficiency in this case arose through the loss of the pay lists of one of the squadrons covering a period of six months. In the case of Marshall's Horse, the Cape Volunteer corps mentioned, the officer acting as paymaster was dismissed the service for neglect of duty. As regards the last part of the Question affecting the British South Africa Company, all payments to the company were duly vouched. The documents missing were such as were required to trace the disposal of the stores after they were received. The total expenditure was £1,681,818. Store vouchers were lacking to account for the subsequent disposal of stores to the value of £76,444.

Enfield and Sparkbrook Factories—Discharge of Men.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will consider the practicability of allotting the orders for small arms in such a way as will enable the workmen employed at Sparkbrook and Enfield Government factories to work three-quarter time, thus preventing the necessity of discharging so many men, and keeping the machinery of the nation in use.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: After the discharge of the 500 men now under notice, it has been arranged to work three-quarter time until it can be ascertained whether any further orders can be given to the small arms factories, but short time can only be justified as a temporary measure when there is a prospect of being able to resume full work in a reasonable time.

Illustrated Dress Regulations.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what has been the expense of the printing and publishing of a large illustrated volume of dress regulations issued by the War Office; how many copies of this work have been printed; to whom are the copies to be presented; are they for sale or distributed gratuitously; who is the author of this work; at whose discretion was it compiled; and under what War Office Estimate will it be included.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The cost of the book was £642. Seven thousand copies were printed. Copies have been distributed gratuitously to the various units and offices of the Army. Officers and others desiring copies obtain them by purchase. The book was compiled under the direction and in the office of the Quartermaster-General. The cost is borne by Stationery Office Votes.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Can we have copies of this precious literature in the tea and smoking rooms?

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I will put a copy in the tea-room if the hon. Member likes?

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Yes, please.

Grants to Rifle Clubs.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when it is proposed to make a grant to rifle clubs as foreshadowed in his speech last session; and what will be the amount of such grant.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: It is not possible to give any grant to rifle clubs at present, nor am I in a position to state when it is probable that financial considerations will admit of such a grant being made.

MAJOR SEELY: May I point out that a grant was definitely promised, and many rifle clubs find it very difficult to make both ends meet.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I do not quite admit that the promise was definite.

Militia Officers.

MAJOR SEELY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the difficulty in obtaining officers for the Militia owing to the state of uncertainty as to the future of that force, he can state when it is proposed to make a definite announcement on the subject.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: With regard to the organisation of the Militia I have nothing at present to add to the proposals already set forth in the Memorandum on the Estimates for 1905–06. I am not, however, aware that there is any increased deficiency in the numbers of Militia officers due to the reason alleged in the Question.

Transvaal War Contribution Agreement.

*MR. MCCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it was a condition of the agreement with the guarantors of the £30,000,000 Transvaal Loan that any premium resulting from the issue of the loan should be paid over to the Transvaal Government.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington): The undertaking of the guarantors extends only to the first instalment of £10,000,000. With this exception the Answer is yes.

*MR. MCCRAE: Was it not a condition that any premium on the whole £30,000,000 should go to the Transvaal Government?

MR. LYTTELTON: I must ask for notice of that.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Does the right hon. Gentleman consider that Answer quite consistent with his speech the other night?

MR. LYTTELTON: It is a correction, but not a very important one.

Indian Mineral Wealth.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the recently published review, by the Director of the Geological Survey of India, of the last six years progress in the development of Indian mineral wealth; whether he is aware that the annual production of minerals during this period is valued at less than £5,000,000; and whether the Government of India propose taking practical steps in the immediate future to secure the further development of Indian industries.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): I have seen the Report. The Report brings out the fact that, though the average value for the six years is under £5,000,000, there has been a steady progress in production, representing an increase of 44 per cent. in the period. There is reason to hope that this progress will continue. The development of mineral and other industries in India will have the attention of the newly created Department of Commerce and Industry.

The Budget.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can now state on what day the Budget will be introduced.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): I propose to introduce the Budget during the week beginning with Monday, April 10th, and probably on that day.

Scottish Universities.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the recent increase of grants to University colleges in England and Wales, it is proposed to augment the provision made for the Scottish Universities.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this. Only one Scottish University college, that at Dundee, has hitherto participated in this grant, and in agreeing to increase the grant in response to representations made to me by the University Colleges I said I would invoke the services of a Committee to advise me with regard to its distribution. Accordingly the Treasury appointed a Committee, consisting of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Haddingtonshire, Sir F. Mowatt, Mr. Cripps, M.P., and Dr. Woods, who in advising as to the allocation of the increased grant said—"We agree with all previous Committees in regarding the inclusion of University College, Dundee, as anomalous, as the college is now part of a Scottish University which is provided for under a separate statutory grant." It is not proposed, therefore, to give this college any share of the additional grant. Up to the present time, notwithstanding the Reports of various Committees, it has received its own grant of £1,000.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): The present grant to Dundee College will be maintained.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I cannot commit myself to that in view of the opinion of a Committee that the grant is anomalous. The matter is being considered.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS pointed out that his Question was whether, in view of the increased grants to the University colleges in England and Wales, the provision made for the Scottish Universities would be increased.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN replied in the negative, and said he regarded the increase to English University colleges as the first equivalent grant to England for grants which had long been enjoyed by Scotland.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): And is there to be any augmentation of any sort or kind of the grant for higher education in Ireland?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: My answer to that is that this is an equivalent grant for England alone.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: Equivalent for what?

*MR. SPEAKER: This Question does not relate to Ireland, and of any further inquiry in that direction notice must be given in the ordinary way.

MR. LOUGH: Is there any precedent for promising a grant of this kind without first obtaining the approval of Parliament?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, an exact precedent.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): Is any subvention made out of local rates in aid of these colleges?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: In certain cases contributions from the rates are made by the local authorities to the Universities of which the colleges form part, but I must ask for notice of the Question whether there is any direct subsidy from the rates.

Income-Tax Assessments.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can say what proportion of the total number of persons assessed to income-tax had paid their tax before the 1st of March in 1904 and in 1905.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I am advised that the figures in question could not be obtained without immense labour extending over a long period and at considerable expense (as the collectors would have to be paid extra for making out the Return). I may remind the hon. Member that a Return has already been ordered on the Motion of the hon. Member for East Edinburgh, which will give the percentage of the charges collected before the 1st of March in 1904 and 1905, and this, I hope, will be sufficient.

Mr. WHITLEY: When may we hope for that Return?

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: It asks for the figures up to March 1st in the present year, and I hope it will not be very much longer before it is presented to the House, but I cannot fix a day.

Pay of Postal Servants.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will issue his proposed scheme of improved scales of pay for the postal service at least two weeks before the discussion on the Post Office Estimates is taken, that time may be given for the consideration by the staff of his proposals.

The POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord Stanley, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I hope to announce the new scales of pay in the course of a few days, probably on Monday or Tuesday. As the next two weeks are already allocated, it is clear the matter cannot be debated for some time.

Conventual Laundries.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will give the names and localities of all conventual laundries in the United Kingdom, the number, names, and localities of those under Government inspection, together with the number of times they have been inspected for the past five years.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): All I can do is to lay on the Table of the House the list referred to in the Answer given to the hon. Member on Thursday last,† with an explanatory note. This I shall be happy to do.

Vaccination Exemption Certificates.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in view of the fact that magistrates throughout the country place different constructions on the term "conscientious objection," as defined in the Vaccination Act, 1898, cases having recently occurred in which a man who has been granted a certificate of exemption for one child has been refused a certificate for another, although he has, in each instance, raised precisely the same conscientious objection to vaccination, will he state when he proposes to lay upon the Table of the House the Circular issued by the Home Office calling attention to the remarks made by the Lord Chief Justice relative to the principle on which the Act ought to be administered; and will he consider the expediency of so amending the Act as to remove the difficulty experienced by magistrates.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: If the hon. Member will move for this Circular in the form of a Return I shall be happy to grant it. The question of legislation on the subject of vaccination is one for the President of the Local Government Board.

Metropolitan Police Clothing Contract.

Mr. LABOUCHERE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state for how many years the contract for the supply of clothing to the sergeants and constables of the Metropolitan Police Force has been held by the present contractors; the prices paid for tunics, great coats, serge jackets, and trousers; and since what time tenders for these articles have not been invited from other firms.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The present clothing contract was made in September, 1890. It is a "running" contract, and contains provision for reviewing from time to time the prices of the articles supplied. I do not think it would be in the public interest that I should state those prices. No other firms have been invited to tender since 1890.

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† See page 193.

Electrification of Railways.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade, in view of the fact that the North Eastern Railway Company adopted the system of electric traction last March on their own responsibility and without obtaining specific statutory powers, involving preliminary inspection on behalf of the Board of Trade, and that, although only thirty-three miles of the line is at the present time thus worked, as many as twenty-eight accidents have occurred through contact with the electrically charged rail, five fatal, will he take steps to warn other railway companies that they should obtain specific statutory powers before adopting this system of traction.

The SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars): No, Sir. As I explained to the hon. Member in my reply of March 14th,† the Board of Trade are not able to take the steps suggested. With regard to the figures given by the hon. Member, I should perhaps explain that, while twenty-eight accidents have occurred from the use of electrical power on the railway in question, seven of these were not due to actual contact with the live rail.

Mr. WEIR: Then I take it that any railway company is entitled to adopt a system of electric traction on its own responsibility, without first obtaining statutory powers.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The hon. Member is, I think, under a misconception. We have considered the question from a legal point of view, but I am not prepared to say that they have not such powers.

Boy Apprentices in the Mercantile Navy.

Sir ROBERT ROPNER (Stockton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state the number of boys who have been, up to now, apprenticed to the sea in the mercantile navy, under the scheme initiated by the right hon. Member for Croydon when President of the Board of Trade.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The number of boy sailors enrolled up to the 18th instant under the scheme referred to by my hon. friend was 4,373.

Foreigners in the British Mercantile Marine.

Mr. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state whether he has any official information showing that the increase in the number of foreigners in the British mercantile marine is due, in a large measure, to shipowners drawing up the articles of agreement between themselves and their crews in such a way as to provide that the final port of discharge shall be a port on the Continent; and that the reason for this practice is that the wages payable at Continental ports are lower than those paid at British ports; and, if so, whether he will take steps to put some check on the discharge of seamen on British ships at ports on the Continent.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The increase in the number of foreigners employed in our mercantile marine is due to a variety of causes, and I have no official information showing that the cause indicated by the hon. Member is the chief one. The Board of Trade have no power to prevent or check the practice of discharging crews at foreign ports.

Mr. CROOKS: May I ask whether the accommodation, or cubic space, for foreign seamen differs from that provided for British sailors?

Mr. BONAR LAW: I must ask for notice of that Question.

Nelson's Widows Pension Scheme.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General whether he is aware that the Official Receiver, in his report on the Nelson's Widows Pension Scheme, has stated that, in his opinion, fraud has been committed in the company's business; and whether he has taken, or intends to take, steps to put the Public Prosecutor in motion with reference to this case.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 1378.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs): This case is still under investigation by the Official Receiver and the Court, and I am not at present in a position to express an opinion upon it.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will you give a guarantee that the rule in Whitaker Wright's case will not be adopted here?

[No Answer was returned.]

St. James's Park.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, when he proposes to repair the asphalted roadway of the bridge in St. James's Park and the paths leading thereto, to which his attention was drawn last summer.

*LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Some repairs were done last autumn; but nothing short of complete renewal will be satisfactory, at a cost of ome hundreds of pounds. It has not been found possible to make provision for the whole cost this year; but it is hoped that some portion may be undertaken in the autumn, the rest being deferred until 1906–7.

Statue of Queen Victoria for Westminster Hall.

SIR BENJAMIN STONE (Birmingham, E.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if it is contemplated placing a statue of Her late Majesty Queen Victoria in Westminster Hall.

LORD BALCARRES: This matter has been under consideration. There are difficulties in regard to it which can be more conveniently stated verbally than in an Answer in the House; and the First Commissioner would be happy to explain the circumstances personally to my hon. friend.

Training of Boys from the Scottish Congested Districts at the Liscard Institute, Liverpool.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, whether the invitation of the Congested Districts Board for Scotland to provide for the maintenance of twenty boys from the congested districts to be trained in seamanship at Liscard Institution, Liverpool, has been responded to; and, if so, will he state from what parishes applications have been received, and the number from each parish.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): Up to the present no applications have been received. The Lews Local Committee, however, represent that sufficient time has not yet been given for due consideration of this scheme.

Training of Girls from the Scottish Congested Districts as Domestic Servants.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state the conditions under which the Congested Districts Board for Scotland undertake to place girls from congested districts in the institution under the control of the Aberdeen Educational Trust for training in domestic service, and the number so placed.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: In answer to the first part of the hon. Member's Question I may refer him to a letter from the Under-Secretary for Scotland to Major Matheson, chairman of the Lews (Balfour) Committee, a copy of which has been sent him. Twenty-one applications, including twelve from the Lews, have been received, but the Congested Districts Board do not get possession of the Home till Whit-Sunday.

Belfast Valuation Appeals.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: On behalf of the hon. Member for North Kilkenny, I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland is he aware that in the revision lists sent to the City Council of Belfast on March 1st by the Commissioner of Valuation for the present year there do not appear on the lists showing his decisions those cases of appeals in which he made no alteration; and, as those apellants have the right of further appeal to quarter sessions, will he see that these cases are added to the lists before the 28th inst., the last day for appealing further.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The Belfast Valuation Roll, which is amended by the revision lists issued on March 1st, contains every rateable valuation in that city. But to prevent any question as to right of appeal, the Commissioner will issue the supplemental lists asked for before the end of the week.

Cahirciveen Technical School.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the committee of the Kerry County Council have repeatedly during the past five years recommended a grant of £80 to the Technical School, Presentation Convent, Cahirciveen; and can he state for what reason the Department of Agriculture has refused to sanction this grant.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The Department declined to sanction a grant for the equipment of a hosiery industry in this institution because they were of opinion that the capitation grant of £2 per head, payable under the county council scheme of technical instruction, would afford adequate aid.

Department of Agriculture—Catholic Clerks.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what has been the loss in official income from all sources to the Catholic clerks lately transferred from the veternary branch to the fisheries branch of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.

MR. WALTER LONG: One clerk only was transferred, and there was no loss of official income in his case.

Dublin Public Institutions—Wages of Attendants.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state when the terms of settled wages already granted to the staffs of the South Kensington and Edinburgh Museums will be granted to the attendants of the Science and Art and National History Museums, the School of Art, and Royal College of Science in Dublin.

MR. WALTER LONG: The matter is under consideration, and will, it is expected, be dealt with in the course of the present year.

Roads (Kerry) Landing Stage.

MR. BOLAND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland can he state whether the alterations of the landing facilities at Roads, county Kerry, have been satisfactorily carried out by the Congested Districts Board; and, if not, can he state when the works will be completed.

MR. WALTER LONG: Progress has been made with these works, but it is not expected that they will be completed until the summer.

O'Donnell Estate, Erris, County Mayo.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the O'Donnell property in Erris, county Mayo, has been purchased by the Congested Districts Board; and, if so, how many years purchase have been paid for it; and, if the property has not yet been purchased, will the Board, in any future negotiations they may have with the owner or with the solicitors to the mortgagees, with a view to purchase, have regard to the price paid for the adjoining estate, the O'Reilly-Digby Estate, now in the hands of the Board.

MR. WALTER LONG: No, Sir, this property has not been purchased by the Board.

Coyne Estate, Erris, County Mayo.

MR. O'KELLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state whether the Coyne Estate in Erris, county Mayo, has been purchased by the Congested Districts Board or by the Estates Commissioners; and, if not, whether negotiations for its purchase are proceeding between either of these two bodies and the owner.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Answer to both of these inquiries is in the negative.

Island of Inniskea.

Mr. O'KELLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any negotiations are proceeding between the Congested Districts Board and Mr. E. C. Walsh for the purchase of the Island of Inniskea, the property of that gentleman; and, if so, whether the Board will consent to buy unless the mainland portion of the property is included in the sale.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Board have purchased the Inishkea Islands, but not the mainland portion of the estate.

Somers Estate, Ballycowan.

Mr. HAVILAND BURKE (King's County, Tullamore): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the agent for the Somers Estate at Ballycowan, near Tullamore, who is also agent for the adjacent Bury Estate, has refused the proposal of the Somers Estate tenants to sell direct to the Estates Commissioners, and has threatened them, failing their compliance with his own proposals, to sell a portion of the Somers Estate to another person for whom he is also agent; and, if so, will he say what action he will take in the matter.

Mr. WALTER LONG: No originating application in respect of this estate has been received by the Estates Commissioners, who have no information as to the allegations contained in the Question. No action on my part is called for.

Mr. HAVILAND BURKE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a planter named Owen, who, for the past sixteen years, has occupied two evicted farms on the Somers Estate at Ballycowan, near Tullamore, under special police protection alleged to be necessary and costing the King's County at least £3,000, has been allowed to purchase these farms under the Land Purchase Act of 1903, although the tenants on the estate made it a condition of negotiation for purchase that the evicted tenants of the farms held by Owen should be restored; and, if so, will he state what steps he proposes to take.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Proceedings for the sale of the King's County portion of this estate have not yet been initiated before the Estates Commissioners. The cost of Mr. Owen's protection, of the amount of which I have no information, has been defrayed from moneys voted by Parliament, and has entailed no charge on the ratepayers.

Vaccination of Public Servants.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that candidates for the public service are not allowed to take up appointments unless they have been vaccinated; and, seeing that this regulation penalises candidates who have a conscientious objection to vaccination, will he so amend the regulations as to make it competent for such persons to secure their appointments under a certificate of exemption granted under the Conscience Clause of The Vaccination Act, 1898.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): I think the hon. Gentleman must be under some misapprehension. I never heard that any objection felt by candidates to being vaccinated themselves would constitute conscientious objection. The conscientious objection is to the vaccination of their children.

The Colonial Conference and Fiscal Reform.

Mr. SEYMOUR ORMSBY-GORE (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of his declaration as to the impossibility of placing a permanent protective and preferential duty upon foodstuffs, he will communicate this determination to the various Colonial Premiers prior to convening the proposed Colonial Conference.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: My desire is that the Conference should be a free conference and there should be no declaration on this subject on either side before the Conference is convened.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury on what date it is intended to issue the invitations to the Colonial Conference in 1906, and, as a supplementary Question, whether the taxation of imported raw material will be excluded from the reference.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: No date has been fixed for the issue of the invitations.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Can the hon. Gentleman not answer the supplementary Question.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Evidently, until the date has been fixed, it would be quite premature to mention the terms of reference.

Establishment of a British Consulate at Baku.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the amount of British capital invested in Baku and the district of which it is the commercial centre, the Government will, for the protection and promotion of British interests, establish a British Consulate at that place.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: This matter has been considered by the Government, but so far no satisfactory arrangement has been come to with Russia.

Importation of Manufactured Goods—Effect on Staple Industries.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if the attention of the Government has been called to the importation for consumption last year of upwards of £110,000,000 worth of articles wholly or mainly manufactured in foreign countries, and to the fact that one-half of these imports consisted of finished articles, giving no employment to British artisans, and if, in devising schemes for the relief of the distress prevailing from want of employment, His Majesty's Government will consider the influence of this foreign competition with the staple industries of the masses of the people.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am informed that the figures of the importation of manufactured and partly manufactured goods is somewhere over £100,000,000 a year. So much for that part of my hon. friend's Question. As to the Question which deals with the whole problem of protection or non-protection, I think my hon. and gallant friend will agree with me that I can hardly deal with it in answer to a Question across the floor of the House.

Registration of Nurses.

DR. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when it is his intention to reappoint the Select Committee to inquire into the question of Registration of Nurses.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I understand that the Committee will be reappointed in a few days.

Government Factories.

MR. BENN (Devonport): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the fact that the Cabinet have now had for some time under their consideration certain of the most pressing difficulties connected with the manufacture by Government Departments, and in particular the relation which such manufactures have to the cost of living and the concentration of population in the metropolitan area, he will extend the consideration and inquiry to like difficulties which exist in regard to Government workers in dockyard centres.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not deny that possibly the subject to which the hon. Gentleman refers might be submitted to a Committee; but I think the particular Committee to which he refers had better deal with the rather difficult and complicated problems already submitted to them, and until they have done that I should hardly like to give any specific pledge as to their next labours.

Law Officers' Remuneration.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that for the last three years the salaries and fees of the Law Officers of the Crown, which amounted in that period to nearly £100,000, have been voted by the House without discussion; and whether he will take any steps to secure that in the present year these salaries and fees will be subjected to Parliamentary criticism.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am informed that the hon. Member's figures are not correct, and that the total should not be £100,000, but somewhere about £75,000, for the three years. I have no objection to this Vote coming up for discussion if the House so desires. Whether it would not exclude the discussion of more important Votes it is not for me to determine, but for the Opposition and those who usually advise me on the manner in which the Votes should be distributed.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: The right hon. Gentleman had no objection last year, but he deliberately guillotined that Vote.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR; When the hon. Member says I deliberately guillotined that Vote, I suppose he means that it was, as a matter of fact, closured at the end of the allotted days.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I charge him with having prevented discussion.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, then, the charge is incorrect.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I adhere to it.

Company Law.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury why has not the legislation, which he promised on the 19th February, 1903, would be introduced as soon as possible, for an amendment in the law, providing adequate remedies for the frauds disclosed in the case of Whitaker Wright and the Globe Finance Company, been introduced; and what explanation, if any, has he to give with respect to his failure to perform his promise to the House of Commons more than two years ago to take steps for the carrying into effect of this legislation to amend the law.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: The hon. Gentleman is misinformed as to the facts. In accordance with the pledge to which he refers, a Bill was introduced last year. It was opposed by hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Government are anxious to proceed with it this year, and my hon. and learned friend the Attorney-General has got the measure prepared and is quite ready to proceed with it.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Will the right hon. Gentleman make this a Government measure? The right hon. Gentleman gave a distinct pledge that he would make the law conform to a broad view of commercial morality.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not quite follow the hon. Gentleman. It was a Government Bill last year. It will be a Government Bill this year. What more does he want?

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I want it passed, and not obstructed by the right hon. Gentleman and his friends.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I desire to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if an opportunity will be given to discuss the Army Clothing Vote?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: That does not rest with me. It is a question whether under the Order recently passed the Votes can be rearranged. If they can, the Government have no objection to giving effect to the wishes of the right hon. Gentleman.

SHIPOWNERS' NEGLIGENCE (REMEDIES) BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 93.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 93.]

Bill, as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be taken into consideration upon Friday, 30th June, and to be printed. [Bill 113.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Members from the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure:—Mr. Attorney-General and Mr. Bonar Law; and had appointed in substitution, Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas and Mr. Solicitor-General.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

ISLE OF THANET LICENSING BILL.

"To transfer to the Cinque Ports Justices of the Thanet Division of Dover, in respect of the district in which they have jurisdiction, the powers in licensing matters now exercised in respect of that district by the Justices of Dover," presented by Mr. Marks; supported by Mr. Griffith Boscawen, Sir Horatio Davies, Mr. Henniker Heaton, and Mr. Tuff; to be read a second time upon Monday, 10th April, and to be printed. [Bill 114.]

CLOSING OF LICENSED PREMISES (ST. PATRICK'S DAY) (IRELAND) BILL.

"To enforce the closing of Licensed Premises on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland," presented by Mr. O'Mara; supported by Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Boland, Mr. O'Shaughnessy, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien, and Mr. Flynn; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 115.]

PUBLIC ROADS (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the repair and maintenance of Public Roads in Ireland," presented by Mr. O'Dowd; supported by Mr. Clancy, Mr. Conor O'Kelly, Mr. Patrick Aloysius McHugh, and Mr. Cullinan; to be read a second time upon Wednesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 116.]

SUPPLY [20TH MARCH].

Resolution reported.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES 1905-6 (VOTE ON ACCOUNT).

"That a sum, not exceeding £21,500,000, be granted to His Majesty, on account, for or towards defraying the Charges for the following Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, viz.:—

CIVIL SERVICES.

CLASS III.

	£
Ireland :—	
Land Commission - -	70,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—	
Colonial Office - - - -	25,000
Local Government Board -	86,000

CLASS I.

Royal Palaces - - -	26,000
Osborne - - - -	7,000
Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens - - - -	43,000
Houses of Parliament Buildings - - - -	25,000
Miscellaneous Legal Buildings, Great Britain - -	33,000
Art and Science Buildings, Great Britain - - -	15,000
Diplomatic and Consular Buildings - - - -	54,000
Revenue Buildings - -	200,000
Public Buildings, Great Britain - - - -	180,000
Surveys of the United Kingdom - - - -	90,000
Harbours under the Board of Trade - - - -	8,000
Peterhead Harbour - -	10,000
Rates on Government Property - - - -	260,000
Public Works and Buildings, Ireland - - - -	110,000
Railways, Ireland - -	35,000

CLASS II.

United Kingdom and England :—	
House of Lords Offices - -	7,000
House of Commons Offices -	15,000

	£
Treasury and Subordinate Departments - -	40,000
Home Office - - -	66,000
Foreign Office - - -	25,000
Privy Council Office, etc. -	3,000
Board of Trade - - -	85,000
Mercantile Marine Services -	30,000
Bankruptcy Department of the Board of Trade - -	3
Board of Agriculture and Fisheries - - -	55,000
Charity Commission - -	15,000
Civil Service Commission -	17,000
Exchequer and Audit Department - - - -	25,000
Friendly Societies Registry -	3,000
Lunacy Commission - -	5,000
Mint (including Coinage) -	5
National Debt Office - -	6,000
Public Record Office - -	10,000
Public Works Loan Commission - - - -	5
Registrar-General's Office -	17,000
Stationery and Printing -	330,000
Woods, Forests, etc., Office of	8,000
Works and Public Buildings, Office of - - - -	30,000
Secret Service - - -	40,000

Scotland :—

Secretary for Scotland, Office of - - - - -	25,000
Fishery Board - - -	5,000
Lunacy Commission - -	3,000
Registrar-General's Office -	2,000
Local Government Board -	5,000

Ireland :—

Lord-Lieutenant's Household	2,000
Chief Secretary for Ireland -	12,000
Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction -	80,000
Charitable Donations and Bequests Office - -	1,000
Local Government Board -	27,000
Public Record Office - -	2,000
Public Works Office - -	17,000
Registrar-General's Office -	5,000
Valuation and Boundary Survey - - - -	6,000

Class III.

United Kingdom and England :—

	£
Law Charges - - -	40,000
Miscellaneous Legal Expenses	28,000
Supreme Court of Judicature -	140,000
Land Registry - - -	18,000
County Courts - - -	2,000
Police, England and Wales -	13,000
Prisons, England and the Colonies - - - -	350,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools, Great Britain -	130,000
Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum - - - -	12,000

Scotland :—

Law Charges and Courts of Law - - - -	30,000
Register House, Edinburgh -	15,000
Crofters' Commission, Scotland - - - -	2,000
Prisons, Scotland - - -	37,000

Ireland :—

Law Charges and Criminal Prosecutions - - -	32,000
Supreme Court of Judicature, and other Legal Departments - - - -	43,000
County Court Officers, etc., -	45,000
Dublin Metropolitan Police -	60,000
Royal Irish Constabulary -	600,000
Prisons, Ireland - - -	54,000
Reformatory and Industrial Schools - - - -	55,000
Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum - - - -	3,50

Class IV.

United Kingdom and England :—

Board of Education - -	7,000,000
British Museum - - -	70,000
National Gallery - - -	10,000
National Portrait Gallery -	3,000
Wallace Collection - -	3,000
Scientific Investigation, etc., United Kingdom - -	24,000
Universities and Colleges, Great Britain, and Intermediate Education, Wales	60,000

Scotland :—

Public Education - -	770,000
National Gallery - - -	5,000

Ireland :—

Public Education - - -	760,000
Endowed Schools Commissioners - - - -	400
National Gallery - - -	2,500
Queen's Colleges - - -	2,500

CLASS V.

	£
Diplomatic and Consular Services	250,000
Colonial Services	595,000
Telegraph Subsidies and Pacific Cable	35,000
Cyprus (Grant in Aid)	15,000

CLASS VI.

Superannuation and Retired Allowances	300,000
Merchant Seamen's Fund Pensions, etc.	1,500
Miscellaneous Charitable and other Allowances	1,000
Hospitals and Charities, Ireland	17,000
Savings Banks and Friendly Societies Deficiences	– –

CLASS VII.

Temporary Commissions	20,000
Miscellaneous Expenses	14,587
Repayments to the Local Loans Fund	– –
Ireland Development Grant	100,000
Visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales to India	– –
Total for Civil Services	£14,070,000

REVENUE DEPARTMENTS.

Customs	350,000
Inland Revenue	830,000
Post Office	3,800,000
Post Office Packet Service	250,000
Post Office Telegraphs	2,200,000
Total for Revenue Departments	£7,430,000
Grand Total	£21,500,000

Resolution read a second time.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) rose to move the reduction of the Vote by £1,000, in order to call attention to a matter which would enable the Colonial Secretary to more fully explain the state of affairs in regard to the £30,000,000 Transvaal loan. As he understood it—although he had not seen the paragraph himself—the Colonial Secretary had communicated to the newspapers a correction of what he had told the House in regard to what would take place in the event of the loan being issued at a premium. His statement was that the guarantors, who were in that case the large mining houses, would, so far as the first loan of £10,000,000 was concerned, reap the benefit of the added premium. But he (the speaker) understood that the correction sent out by the right hon. Gentleman was that the advantage would be reaped not by the guarantors but by the Transvaal Treasury. Quite apart from that, he wished the Colonial Secretary to fully inform the House what the facts were, for it was only just to the mining houses of the Transvaal that it should be fully understood that they did not make the bargain in order to put money into their own pockets. He would, however, ask whether this arrangement applied to the £10,000,000 only, or to the whole of the £30,000,000. He was sure that on that point the House would be glad to get information.

Again, he proposed to ask the Colonial Secretary's attention to a statement made—inaccurately made, he thought—that this loan had nothing to do with the question of the working of the mines of the Transvaal, whether by Asiatic labour or by any other means. The right hon. Gentleman said in the course of discussion the other night that the latter question was not germane to the subject. [Mr. LYTTELTON dissented.] He would like to point out that in the course of the discussion reference was made on the Opposition side of the House—by way of interruption, he believed—to the question of Chinese labour, and the right hon. Gentleman said, with the approval of hon. Members on his own side of the House, that that question was not very germane to the discussion. He would like to point out, however, that it was very germane to the discussion, because at the time when the financial arrangements were being made it was pointed out by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham that the resources of the country, as they were, did not enable it to provide more than £30,000,000, and what was more interesting was that last session the Colonial Secretary, when speaking on the matter of the amount of labour employed in the mines, said that quite apart from any other aspect of the labour question, it would obviously be most unwise and imprudent for the House to rob the mineowners of the opportunity of fulfilling the obligations laid upon them. Perhaps, as the matter was one of considerable importance, he ought to read the words of the right hon. Gentleman when he was referring to the £35,000,000 loan, and was pointing out that the £30,000,000 loan was part of the whole transaction. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "Can you as a matter of economic prudence and policy, having laid this great burden on the community, deny them, if they put proper restrictions and precautions upon it, the opportunity of discharging the obligations you have laid upon them?"

He thought it was a fair inference to say that the House was induced to a great extent, having disposed in its mind of any moral question in regard to Chinese labour, to sanction it because it would enable the Transvaal Government to fulfil the obligations which it had undertaken. He thought it would probably be more in accordance with precedent if our Government were to suggest to the Transvaal Government that they could not have it both ways, that if they were to say to this House, "If you enable us to develop our mining industry it will make it more certain that we shall pay you this £30,000,000 war contribution—if you do as we wish," the Government on its part should point out that there was a peculiar obligation on the Transvaal Government to go forward with the loan whenever they could, and that the question could not be dismissed in the phrase that the subject of labour was not germane to the issue. As he held, it was most especially germane, because having given the mineowners certain opportunities which were admittedly denied to any other section of the community engaged in mining or other industries in any part of the British Empire, and having given them those opportunities in the belief that, as a consequence, this large sum of £30,000,000 would be forthcoming, we should now say, "If you cannot pay the £30,000,000, and we would be the last to urge you to do that which you cannot afford and which may cripple your country, we do say that there must be an end to this peculiar arrangement, foreign to every British principle and utterly unknown to any other British colony." If, in fact, they were to say that there must be an end in regard to the importation of that particular kind of labour, that would seem to be a reasonable position to take up. He believed that persons outside the House would consider it most disastrous if the mining industry, having given these promises, and having to a certain extent on the basis of these promises obtained special concessions, now refused to carry out their pledges. It was no part of his duty to find fault with the mining industry in South Africa. They had differed as to the wisdom of the course that had been pursued, but if the Colonial Secretary could give to the House some indication that he was prepared to take further action in this matter he was sure the country would be greatly relieved. The public, or rather many of them, felt that they had been deceived—that they had been befooled. Was it, then, not possible to take the step he had suggested, and to do something to make it plain to the people of this country that the Government would no longer be befooled by one section, however powerful, of the community in South Africa.

As to whether the loan should be pressed for or not, he would not venture to express any opinion, and if there were no question of special privileges concerned, he agreed it would be most unwise to press for the loan which in the heat of the moment was promised under the influence of the eloquence of a most remarkable man. But, under the peculiar circumstances of the grant of these extraordinary privileges, so very contrary to the wishes and aspirations of the people, he did hold that the guarantors should be pressed for reasons why the loan should not be issued. It was stated that it could not possibly be issued until certain legislative action had been taken, and it had been further suggested that it would be impossible to pass proposals for it through the present Legislative Council or through the body to be set up under representative government. Again, it was suggested by many persons in the

Transvaal that those who gave the guarantee for the loan were not properly authorised to do so, and that under a system of full responsible government it was not probable that they would obtain a favourable vote on the matter. If that were the case it was just as well that it should be made known. He had stated that, in his humble judgment, under the peculiar circumstances of the case, they ought to press for the loan, and that it was the duty of the Government to do that; but, at any rate, whether they pressed for it or not, it would be as well to know what was likely to happen and what the Government were going to do. Members on the Opposition side of the House had vehemently protested again and again against the special privileges given to a particular class in the Transvaal, the class which had guaranteed the loan and which, to a great extent, dominated the Legislative Assembly. They had protested, and would continue to protest, but their protests up to the present having failed he thought they were entitled to know whether those who had been given such privileges would be urged to fulfil their obligations.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) rose to second the reduction of the Vote. He invited the Colonial Secretary to take the opportunity of further extending the statement which he made to the House on Monday night. In the letter which the right hon. Gentleman had written to *The Times* that morning he said that he omitted to state an important fact. But that was not the grievance which they had against the right hon. Gentleman. It was not only that he had omitted to state an important fact, but that he had founded his argument on the contrary view. He (the speaker) himself tried to interpose at the time, and to point out that the right hon. Gentleman was unintentionally, no doubt, misleading the House, but he could not get a hearing, and he, therefore, wished now to urge that the House was entitled to an explanation and a retractation from the right hon. Gentleman. In regard to the premiums on the Transvaal Loan, if the right hon. Gentleman would turn to pages 1 and 2 of the Blue-book he would find that the stipulations which the guarantors made did not refer only to the first instalment of £10,000,000 which they had guaranteed, but referred to the whole loan of £30,000,000. Evidently the position was that the guarantors, being interested in South Africa, found that if the £30,000,000 loan were issued at a premium, that premium would go to the Home Government, and the Home Government would get a certain amount in excess of the £30,000,000. They felt that that would not be right, and they, therefore, stipulated that whatever premiums were received should go, not to the Home Government, but into the Transvaal Treasury. If the right hon. Gentleman would read the Minute of Agreement, which evidently he had not yet done, he would find that that was the case.

There were one or two other matters he wished to bring under the notice of the House. The late Colonial Secretary always prided himself upon being a business man. In making that arrangement he made one loan contingent on the other, and although a sinking fund was provided for the £35,000,000 loan it was stipulated in the agreement that no sinking fund should be provided for the £30,000,000 loan. Now, surely that was not a proceeding which a business man would approve, and the Government itself found later on that it was an arrangement which it could not confirm, for the present Colonial Secretary wrote to the guarantors pointing out that it was necessary that a sinking fund should be established, and asking them to agree to such a course. Those words might be found on page 149 of Cd. 1895, No. 85. The mineowners, very properly from their point of view, said that before they would consent to any further extension of the conditions of their guarantee they must know the time and terms on which the issue of the loan would be made. That was in January, 1904, and, so far as he could gather, no further negotiations had since taken place between the Colonial Secretary and the guarantors. Another interesting feature was that in the same letter from the Colonial Office to Messrs. Wernher Beit and Co. it was stated the necessary provisions for raising the loan were embodied in a draft Ordinance, which was forwarded some time before to the Government of the Transvaal, and which would be submitted in due course to the Legislative Council of that Colony. That was in December, 1903, and he would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman why that Ordinance had not been submitted to the Legislative Council. That was a delay for which no explanation whatever had been given, and he had not the slightest doubt that, although they had no record of it, there must have been some correspondence between the Colonial Office and the High Commissioner in regard to the issue of the first instalment of £10,000,000, and in regard to getting the consent of the Legislative Council to the loan. He would like to ask why that information was withheld from the House of Commons. He held that the House was entitled to know exactly how the matter stood.

He was bound to admit that the guarantors had behaved very well in this matter, and he thought the blame rested more with the Colonial Office than with them. They had no doubt taken the opportunity on one or two occasions of trying to minimise the conditions on which they consented to guarantee the loan. For instance, they endeavoured to secure power to decide the date of its issue, and they did thereby try to whittle down their responsibility. The Colonial Office, however, would not agree to that, but Lord Milner, on the 16th February, stated that if the loan was issued at less than four per cent. the guarantee would fall to the ground. That was perfectly fair. Still, the more that one looked at the agreement the more one felt that it was not worth the paper upon which it was written. For the sake of the Transvaal, the mine-owners would not be asked to incur any responsibility on their guarantee; but, on the other hand, if the loan were a success the rate of interest would be reduced. He believed that the first instalment of £10,000,000 could be floated just now at a lower rate of interest than four per cent., and if that were so then the guarantee of the mine owners fell to the ground. But he was not complaining of that. What he was complaining of was that a definite arrangement was made whereby Parliament consented to the guaranteed loan of £35,000,000 on a condition which was now being departed from. The loan was being hung up, and the longer the delay the less likely it became that we should get any money. He hoped the Colonial Office would frankly place before the House of Commons the position in which this matter now stood, and if that were done they, on their part, would be willing, while they ought not to concede one jot or tittle of what they were entitled to, to take a reasonable view and endeavour to meet the present position in the Transvaal. He therefore urged the Colonial Secretary to take that opportunity of giving the House a full and frank statement.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£21,500,000' and insert '£21,499,000'" — (*Major Seely*) — "instead thereof."

Question proposed, "That '£21,500,000' stand part of the Resolution."

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) said he listened with some astonishment, and he confessed with considerable regret, to the speech of the Colonial Secretary the other night. The whole of the Government policy in South Africa had been a failure, and the right hon. Gentleman had made one of the greatest confessions of failure he had ever listened to. In May, 1903, the late Colonial Secretary, in speaking of the arrangement of the loan, said, "It is a final arrangement. After three years we shall hear no more about it." But on Monday last the present Colonial Secretary informed the House that there was an excellent chance of our obtaining the £30,000,000, because there had been a discovery of diamonds in the Transvaal. Therefore, we were to speculate for our £30,000,000 on receiving something from the diamond mines. What an excellent prospect for the British taxpayer! He was sure no one wished to press the right hon. Gentleman in the direction of saying that the loan should be issued at a time which was unfavourable for the purpose, because, if that were done, there would be a loss to the Transvaal in future years; but what he thought had been made clear was that, practically, this guarantee was not only waste paper, but that it could not by any possibility have ever thrown any liability of any sort on those who gave it. And this was the great diplomatic triumph about which they had heard so much! These capitalists were going, they were told by the right hon. Gentleman, to make a great sacrifice for their country; and now it appeared that the right hon. Gentleman was altogether mistaken.

What were the reasons advanced for not issuing the loan? One was that the war had left great devastation in the Transvaal, another was that the taxation was very heavy, and thirdly, it was urged that the process of development might be delayed if the loan was at once issued. But he would point out to the Colonial Secretary that every one of the arguments and objections he urged the other night as reasons for not issuing the loan were present at the time when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham made this arrangement. Indeed, they were present in far greater force then than they were at the present moment, for the whole financial condition of the Transvaal had very much improved since this bargain was struck. In the matter of labour, for instance, the natives had returned to the mines in greater number, as was expected would be the case under improved conditions of working. Put the blame where they liked, there was no getting away from the fact that there had been a breach of faith somewhere. This was, he repeated, one of those deplorable failures which had marked the policy and action of His Majesty's Government in South Africa before, during, and since the war. The more this was discussed the better, and he hoped the Colonial Secretary would take into consideration what fell from the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol the other night, viz., that in any arrangement or negotiation with regard to the future government of the Transvaal this claim should not be lost sight of. That was the only way in which this breach of faith could, in any sense, be condoned.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland) pointed out that every year the payment of the loan was delayed, the taxpayers of this country were suffering to the extent of £1,000,000. If this £30,000,000 were paid our National Debt would be reduced by that amount, and the interest upon it would be decreased to the extent of about a million a year. He did not complain of the Transvaal mineowners as guarantors, but he complained of them as taxpayers. If the mineowners, on the one hand, guaranteed to underwrite £10,000,000 as the first instalment of the loan, and to bear the loss, if there should be any, in the issue of the loan, and if, on the other hand, they stipulated, and the Government agreed, that the loan should not be issued unless the market was favourable, it was no guarantee at all. It was as taxpayers of the Transvaal that they had the right to complain of the mineowners, for it was as taxpayers that the mineowners would have to bear the burden of the charge for this sum. The right hon. Gentleman said it would be unfair to lay on the people of the Transvaal, a small population, so enormous a dead-weight as this loan of £30,000,000 would be in addition to the £35,000,000 already charged on them. In the first place, that ought to have been considered before the pledge was given. In the second place, he would point out that the £35,000,000 already charged on the Transvaal was by no means all dead-weight, because a great deal of it had been used in the purchase of the railways, which brought in revenue. It was not a debt in the sense in which our National Debt was a burden round the necks of the taxpayers. He would point out, also, that in the case of the Transvaal it was not fair merely to take into account the number of the population without taking into account the immense mineral wealth which lay buried in the earth there. The circumstances now were different from what they were when the pledge was given, but the difference in every way was in favour of the Transvaal. In the first place, no one, at that time, had the slightest idea that the Premier Diamond Mine would yield £450,000 a year to the Transvaal, and if the mineowners could give the pledge at a time when it was not yielding anything, surely there was all the more reason now for the pledge to be fulfilled. At that time the Chinese labour question had not come prominently forward, and it was since then that there had been an enormous increase in the labour force of the Transvaal, both in Chinese and Kaffirs. The right hon. Gentleman said, a year ago, that if we wanted to have our £30,000,000 we must give them Chinese labour. We had given them Chinese labour, and now they refused to fulfil the pledge. Now the right hon. Gentleman would have them believe that the Transvaal was only to be charged for the £30,000,000 loan if it involved no increased taxation in the Transvaal. Was that so?

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington): I think the terms are that no increase should be made on the 10 per cent. tax on the mines.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: Surely there are other sources of taxation. You have the taxation now from the Premier Diamond Mine. Are we to understand that we are to receive no portion of the loan of £30,000,000 until there is a normal surplus in the Transvaal of £1,000,000 a year?

*MR. LYTTELTON: I do not like to make a general pledge, in advance, of that nature, but as a general rule you do not issue a loan unless there is a sufficient surplus revenue to provide for it.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: Then what is the value of the resolution passed and the pledge given that the £30,000,000 loan should be raised and the interest charged on the revenues of the Transvaal?

*MR. LYTTELTON: If the hon. Gentleman believes that the Premier Diamond Mine will be of such value, of course there is considerable revenue to be anticipated; but the hon. Gentleman is aware of the somewhat speculative character of diamonds.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: Have the Government taken any steps to make this debt of honour a first charge?

MR. LYTTELTON: It is not usual to take security for a debt of honour.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL said he only hoped that the faith of His Majesty's Government would be justified by the result. At the present time they had a definite refusal of those who composed the Legislative Council of the Transvaal—not a definite expression of refusal, but the Government had reason to understand that if they introduced this measure it would be met with considerable opposition in the Legislative Council and would not be passed without the use of the official vote. The right hon. Gentleman said that was so. Apart from the official vote it was the mining interest that dominated that Council. They had a majority in it. Therefore, the House must clearly understand that the mineowners themselves refused to permit any further increase in the taxation of the Transvaal in order to carry out a definite obligation to this House, for which they had not only got Chinese labour, but also secured the guarantee of a loan of £35,000,000 for the development of the colony.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said he was anxious that they should not live in a fool's paradise in regard to this payment from the Transvaal. He believed we had not the slightest chance of getting the £30,000,000 or any part of it. He quite sympathised with the view of his hon. friend that they should make those who were responsible for the war, namely the mineowners, pay some part of the cost of the war. That was a feeling which was not confined to his side of the House. He had heard it expressed strongly by hon. Gentlemen opposite, and if there was any means of making them do it he would rejoice to adopt those means, believing that the money was being properly exacted from them. The Colonial Secretary pointed out with perfect truth the other evening that there was really—these were not his words, but in substance it came to this—no risk taken by the mineowners at all when they underwrote the loan. There was no real guarantee. If there had been a guarantee it was practically of no value. It involved no risk to the guarantors, because it was a guarantee of a loan at 4 per cent. behind which, as the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had told the House, the honour of this country was committed. The idea of these people having given themselves up to feelings of generosity when they underwrote a loan at 4 per cent. which was practically guaranteed by this country was absurd. There was in point of fact from the beginning no risk on their part. The proposal was brought forward in a speech of extraordinary eloquence by the then Colonial Secretary in, he thought, May, 1903, in which he painted an extraordinary picture. If the right hon. Gentleman had not been above suspicion at that time, he should have thought the speech was made for the purpose of bulling on the Stock Exchange. It was one of the most powerful speeches he had ever heard in the House. This promise of £30,000,000 was part of the inducement held out to the House, in the most conspicuous terms by the late Colonial Secretary, to consent to give a guarantee for the sum of £35,000,000. They gave the guarantee and they were befooled in giving it. That was the first use made of the promise. He was not saying that it was done disingenuously. He believed the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was a creature of impulse. He had no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman in his own mind believed that this was an El Dorado. The £30,000,000 was a perfectly worthless asset.

The second use made of the promise was when they were asked to assent to the Chinese Labour Ordinance. Those interested said, "We are under this guarantee, which everyone says is an onerous guarantee. Are we not to have Chinese labour to earn money to enable us to discharge our obligations." His object now was to prevent a third use being made of the promise. This House and the country had endorsed the war and on them must rest the responsibility. He was not going to talk of the rights or the wrongs of it now, but do not let the people of this country imagine that they were going to get this £30,000,000. They wo ld get nothing, and the Colonial Secretary had shown plainly that it was impossible to get it. Why? There were difficulties in the way of putting taxes on the land. The country had been described by Lord Milner in more than one despatch as having been reduced largely to the condition of a wilderness. All the agricultural stock had been destroyed, and nearly all the houses had been burned. How could we expect to get much, even if we were at liberty to put taxes on them? What was the other resource? The other resource was to tax the profits earned by the mines. Why could we not do that? Because that admirable man of business the late Colonial Secretary when he made this bargain that we were to guarantee the £35,000,000 loan, and that we were to get the £30,000,000 contribution, made a third bargain, and it was that there was not to be more than a 10 per cent. tax on the profits of the mines. We were absolutely prevented by that bargain so long as it was operative—he was glad to say that it was possible it might not be long operative—from getting any part of this £30,000,000. The resources were all dried up by the arrangement which the late Colonial Secretary went out to make. When he came back his friends boasted of it as one of the greatest achievements of his magnetic influence. The people of the Transvaal completely got the best of the late Colonial Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman went out there, no doubt, full of compassion, pity, and kindliness towards the people of that country, and with strong Imperial ideas. They were looking after business, and the men of business got the better of the patriot on this occasion. The final reason why we need not indulge the vain hope that we were going to get this money was that the country could not afford to pay it. The Colonial Secretary told them with perfect truth that the market would not permit of this loan being placed at par. The reason it was not done last year was because the market was not suitable. Very well, that objection had disappeared. The market was now suitable. The Colonial Secretary, in substance, had told them—he believed perfectly rightly—that the country could not bear the burden of this taxation. That was the plain English of it; and the whole scheme put before the House two years ago, when they were induced by a Parliamentary bargain—if it was a Parliamentary bargain—to guarantee a loan of £35,000,000 on the footing that they were to receive a contribution from the Transvaal of £30,000,000—was a scheme based on air, worth nothing, was a delusion from beginning to end, and was now a delusion.

He agreed in substance and in spirit with his hon. friends in their arguments, but he could not agree with their conclusions when they pressed on the Government and on the Transvaal for payment of this loan. If it were true, or anything like true, that the Transvaal could not bear that extra burden of £30,000,000, how unworthy it would be for this great country, in the few months or weeks that still remained while there were no representative institutions in the Transvaal, to fix on it liabilities which it could not bear? He thought the Colonial Secretary was perfectly right; but he believed the House of Commons had the strongest reason to resent the manner in which they had been hoodwinked in this whole transaction. Had they not been more credulous than they should have been two or three years ago, they would never have been deceived by this vain and hopeless story.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I cannot say that I complain of the discussion, though I fear that I can do little but repeat the arguments I used a day or two ago. I think it is possible and natural that hon. Members should feel warmly upon this matter if they do not have a perfectly clear conception of the facts. I endeavoured the other day to place before the House all the facts of this case. I really think the House saw what the situation truly was as the result of my statement. It is perfectly true that, on the day of the Colonial Vote, the Colonial Secretary has to be ready to deal with a great multitude of topics, and in the comparatively short discussion, from the Marshall Islands to Ceylon, and from Ceylon to the Constitution of the Transvaal it is perfectly true that I made one slip which I put right at the first moment. I made a slip which I was bound to put right in the interests of the mineowners to whom I had done an injustice. I represented erroneously to the House that they might make a profit out of this transaction. This was a slip, or at any rate an incomplete statement, because the underwriters had offered that any premium should go to the Transvaal Government. I was bound to make that clear.

MAJOR SEELY: On the whole £30,000,000?

*MR. LYTTELTON: My reading of the bargain is that they can only prescribe the destination of the premium in the first £10,000,000; on the subsequent £20,000,000 the Transvaal Government would have the right to keep any premium that might arise. While I say, I regret them, I do not complain of these discussions. We have paid £250,000,000 of money, and we have sacrificed God knows how many lives. Yes, I will not go back upon it, but everybody who hears me knows it is true that it was with the assent of the vast majority of the people of this country, and of hon. Members of this House, that we made that tremendous sacrifice. We have done it in order to preserve the British Empire in South Africa, and in order to give to our fellow-subjects in the Transvaal equality with the Boers. I do not wish to speak in the slightest way harshly in the matter, but I know the right hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Dumfries Burghs was one of the few who differed from that policy, and who had the manhood to say so.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) was understood to say "disgraceful," with reference to some interruption from the Opposite side of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham): I rise to a point of order. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Order, order!"]

MR. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): The hon. Member for Oldham is perfectly in order. The hon. Member for Gravesend has said "disgraceful." He had no right to use such a word.

*MR. SPEAKER: I heard neither the interruption nor the comment. If the word "disgraceful" was used it ought not to have been used, and it ought to be withdrawn.

MR. CHURCHILL: On a point of order the hon. Member for Gravesend did in fact use the word "disgraceful," and that word is very much resented on this side of the House.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: It is quite true I used the word, but I did not wish to use the word offensively. I am afraid I meant to say it to myself rather than aloud to the House; and at the same time I wish to withdraw the expression.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I was pointing out that this country had made immense sacrifices of men and treasure in order to acquire this colony and in order to preserve our ascendancy in South Africa. I venture to say, with a strong sense of responsibility, that in the action the Government are now taking in forbearing to force through a nominated Assembly an acceptance of a voluntary contribution made by the Transvaal towards the cost of the war within three years of it, we are acting, as we believe, in the highest interest, both of this country and of that country; and I believe that the hon. Member for Dumfries really agrees with me. I am perfectly certain any person who thinks of this matter at all would regard it as absolutely deplorable that, after this tremendous sacrifice, we should jeopardise its fruits for the sake of accelerating a few years the issue of this loan. I think, really, I have the assent of the House in that statement. Let us understand where we are. If I have the agreement of many Members to that proposition, do not let us jeopardise, for the sake of money, the good feeling which exists between ourselves and the Transvaal.

Well, now, I say to take, as the hon. Member for Cleveland says we should, a security for a debt of honour is, in my mind, a very un-English proceeding. I do not think when somebody makes you an offer voluntarily, [OPPOSITION cries of "No, no!"], offers a voluntary contribution, it would be very worthy to take security. But if this is too nice or refined a way of looking at it, I wish to put this to the House. Do they think it likely that issuing this loan at the present moment and forcing it through a nominated Assembly, will make it more or less likely that we should obtain the £20,000,000 subsequent to the £10,000,000. I venture to say that it would imperil, and naturally imperil, that £20,000,000. [MINISTERIAL Cheers.] And more than that. Would it be a right thing to do, when you are setting up a representative Assembly on a low franchise, such as roughly obtains in most Colonies, and when that Assembly would be in being in a few months. Does this House and hon. Gentlemen opposite think it would be right to go to a nominated Assembly—which is only of course representative so far as it could be made so, and even by the use of the official vote, or by the use of strong pressure upon nominated members—and say, "Give us this" when the bargain was for a willing and voluntary contribution. Surely hon. Members must see that that would be precisely to break those conditions made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and which hon. Gentlemen have never read; it would be to enforce by the act of a superior Power on the Legislature the performance of this undertaking, and it would be to do it in such a way as, I say, would arrest the due progress and the development of the country; and in the last place it could not be done without departing from all precedent. I defy any financial expert of experience to draw up the prospectus of such a loan without departing from all precedent, unless it were being raised upon a surplus revenue.

That is the state of things which exists at this moment. The figures show about an equilibrium; there is an estimated deficit of, I think, £120,000 in June. Therefore, you have a situation in which at present there is only equilibrium between revenue and expenditure in the Transvaal, putting it at the highest. You have the treaty obligation not to put a tax upon land, and you have the right hon. Member for West Birmingham's obligation not to tax the mines beyond 10 per cent. Yes, I have got to treat with facts as I find them. I do not intend, nor do hon. Gentlemen opposite, I believe, intend, though the words "breach of faith" have been used, to break the conditions which my predecessor made, and which he stated in the most specific and lucid terms to the House. I know the hon. Member for Dumfries is a fair-minded man, and I would point out to him that it is grossly unfair to the right hon. Member for West Birmingham to read part of his speech and not read the rest, which is really germane to this matter. It is grossly unfair to him, and ought not to be done. I do not mean the whole of the speech, but all that part which treats with this particular bargain, and the conditions under which it was made. It was unfair to my right hon. friend to say that the guarantee of £35,000,000 was conditional upon the loan of £30,000,000, without stating the terms upon which the £30,000,000 were promised. To summarise those terms, they were that the £30,000,000 should be voluntarily and willingly given, that it should not involve taxation beyond 10 per cent. upon the mines, and should not arrest or unduly impede the development of the country. I say, and I really cannot see any answer to it, that if I take all these three conditions, for the present Government to bring forward this war contribution at this present moment would be a breach of all three of the conditions which the promisers of that £30,000,000 attached to that undertaking. How in the world can hon. Members opposite ask the Government at the present moment to begin the treatment of this most difficult and delicate subject by breaking the conditions which were solemnly made by the late Colonial Secretary. [Oh!] Were these conditions not made?

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): The right hon. Gentleman's bargain was what they were willing to give then, and they willingly made it then, and the right hon. Gentleman has no right to speak of willingness now two years afterwards.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I do not agree with the hon. Gentleman; but supposing for the sake of argument he was right, does he think it would be right to break even two conditions instead of three? Does he think we are entitled to do that? Whatever his view is, I do not think we are. But far above that, or at any rate an argument equally strong is that we are giving representative government with the assent, I believe, of everybody here. Will it be right to exact this from a moribund nominated Assembly when next year there is going to be a representative Assembly which can take on this debt of honour and which can ratify it and give it legislative sanction?

MR. CHURCHILL: They will not do so.

MR. LYTTELTON: So an hon. Member says.

MR. CHURCHILL: I say so.

*MR. LYTTELTON: The hon. Member for Oldham thinks his fellow-subjects in the Transvaal are not to be believed. I deeply regret that anybody should hold that view, but if that is the hon. Member's opinion I shall not attempt to dislodge it from his mind. He is entitled to hold it. I deeply regret it should be publicly stated in this discussion. I most profoundly regret it and I appeal to the hon. Member to look at this matter for a moment from a higher standpoint than Party, which I know he is very capable of doing. Does he think it is likely to draw closer the ties between that colony and ourselves that they should be first asked by some Members opposite to take upon themselves this enormous obligation at this present time, and then that some other Members of the Opposition should say—if you give them, in conformity with your policy in every other colony, a few months or years in order that their own representatives may take upon themselves that obligation—"We do not believe a word of anything they say. We would not trust the representatives of the people there. We think they are unworthy of belief, and we deliberately say here on the floor of the House and in public, although the Motherland has made these tremendous sacrifices for the Empire, and among others for them, that they in the future will not be willing to pay a single shilling towards the cost of the great sacrifices which have been made." I should be sorry to think so ill of my fellow-subjects. I do not think that this is the way that a great Empire can be kept together or any Government carried on. You must give some credit to people's good faith and good intentions. What evidence have any hon. Gentlemen who have spoken of any breach of faith whatever.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): There is the evidence of this very matter.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I can assure the hon. Gentleman that is not correct. There is another term which is contained in the shorthand notes of the proceedings that the loan should not be issued at a time when it was unfavourable. It was agreed by everybody last year —it was never challenged in this House—that the moment was extremely unfavourable. Everybody knows that in January, 1904, everything was down to the very abyss in the City. No one contended that the loan could be issued then. Those who guaranteed this £10,000,000 were perfectly willing it should be issued, but the burden of that would not have fallen upon them but upon the taxpayers of the Transvaal. Hon. Members must have it one way or the other; these charges of breach of faith ought not to be bandied about in this light way. How can it be shown that the guarantors have broken faith? We did not attempt to issue it in 1904. They are perfectly willing we should issue it in 1905, but from reasons of high policy we abstain from doing that which we are competent to do, because it would be a breach of the conditions of the bargain, and because we think it expedient and more likely to result in the fulfilment to the full of this voluntary undertaking that we should postpone the issue of the £30,000,000 until the representative Government has met and taken upon itself the arrangement necessary to discharge the matter. We may be right or we may be wrong upon the matter, but there is a vast deal to be said in favour of the view we have placed before the House. Surely hon. Members do not desire to bleed the Transvaal to death. We assure them that as far as the present evidence of the wealth of the country goes the conditions point to a substantial surplus next year; a surplus sufficient to pay the interest upon the first instalment of £10,000,000. If that is so, and I think it is, surely we have a tremendously strong case upon which to go to the Transvaal representative Government and say, "Here is a state of things in which we fairly can ask you to redeem the promise you have made. You have the £350,000, which is the advantage of our guarantee of the £35,000,000 loan; you have a sufficient surplus in your coffers to serve the first £10,000,000 of the instalment. Surely, we can ask you now voluntarily to take upon yourselves the discharge of the first instalment of what is a debt of honour?" Are we more likely to get it by that way, and if we treat them in a fair and reasonable spirit, or are we more likely to get it if we enforce the £10,000,000 immediately on a nominated Assembly, and in breach of the conditions under which it was made?

MAJOR SEELY: In moving this Motion I never made any charge of breach of faith. I asked for specific information, which I believe the right hon. Gentleman possesses, as to whether the Transvaal Legislature admitted the liability for this £30,000,000, seeing that he admits we cannot get it without an Act passed by them. Has he any information whether they admit it or whether the new body is likely to admit it?

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): Will the new representative Government be entirely elected or partly nominated? If the nominated members are in favour of this loan and the rest are not, how will we then stand?

*MR. LYTTELTON: I do not think I am very regular in replying to that question; but I think I may say this much—that other than the Executive Government all the members will be elected. With reference to the Question put by the hon. and gallant Member for the Isle of Wight I think he will see it is impossible to answer it. He asks whether the Legislative Assembly, not yet in being, but to be elected, will admit this obligation or not. It really depends upon the belief you have in the people of the Transvaal who elect that body, as to whether you believe they will give you a reasonable redemption of this pledge.

MAJOR SEELY: What about the present one? Will the present one accept the liability?

*MR. LYTTELTON: I think it would produce a most grievous effect if this House were, under this condition of things, to ask that Legislature, which, of course, is non-elective, to take upon itself this obligation; and I do not think we can make that request.

MAJOR SEELY: Then they do not admit the liability?

*MR. LYTTELTON: I cannot say that. I do not think the nominated Assembly would have any greater power or authority at the present moment, when they are under sentence of extinction, to bind the people than those who promised the contribution. I trust the House appreciates that the policy of abstention from issuing the loan is not pursued without a great sense of responsibility, and a most profound desire to obtain for the taxpayers of this country the full amount of the £30,000,000. The real fact is that we believe the taxpayers of this country will have a far better and greater chance of obtaining the full sum of £30,000,000 if this House will be patient for a few months and allow the representative system to come in and the revenues of the country to recover themselves than if we were at this moment to endeavour to enforce with a high hand this obligation, which is only one of a quasi-legal kind. I do most earnestly desire to deplore the language which was used by the hon. Member for Dumfries that this was no real guarantee by these financial houses. Do let us in this House endeavour to do justice to people if we can. These gentlemen have publicly underwritten this £10,000,000. They have allowed the £35,000,000 to precede their obligation and to rank as a prior lien upon the assets of the Transvaal. They gave this guarantee in 1903, six months after the termination of the war; and at any time when the market conditions were favourable in England they could be called on to find the £10,000,000. A time might have been selected when it would have been very difficult to induce the public to come in; but these gentlemen have never repudiated this bargain in any form. They have always held that they are bound by it, and as persons of great weight in the financial affairs of the Transvaal, as the owners of the mines, they must be the persons primarily affected. Therefore it is very unjust to say that they did not undertake a serious obligation.

SIR ROBERT REID: I believe it was the late Chancellor of the Exchequer who said in this House that it was a moral obligation. What I said was that under those circumstances it was no imputation on these gentlemen to say that there was no real financial risk.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I have admitted that after the first two years there was no very great risk. But the hon. and learned Member said that this was no real guarantee, and was not worth the paper it was written on. That is absolutely incorrect. No financial house is worth anything unless its credit is good; and how is it possible to contend that when people of financial weight take upon themselves an obligation they can resile from it without grievous loss of credit?

SIR ROBERT REID: I assure you I never said that.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: I used the word in connection with the condition that the loan should not be issued unless the market conditions were favourable.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I venture to think the hon. Member is absolutely wrong. It is a question of fact when the market conditions are favourable. They are favourable now. The hon. Gentleman admits that. Who can say when the loan was guaranteed that the market conditions were not favourable?

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: There is no risk to the guarantors.

*MR. LYTTELTON: The hon. Member does not think a promise is of the slightest value unless it can be sued on in a Court of Law.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL: Oh, no!

*MR. LYTTELTON: Then I do not understand it. If it be the fact that the promise could be broken when all the conditions are favourable for its performance, then the hon. Member would be right. But I contend that it could not be broken without grievous loss of credit; and I say that there has been no attempt to resile from the bargain. The anticipation is that from the Premier Mine next year there will be sufficient profit to serve the first instalment of the war contribution; and I founded on this fact a reasonable expectation that with this surplus provision will be made for the issue of the first £10,000,000. My argument is that, not only for considerations far higher than monetary considerations we should do very ill if we, for the sake of accelerating the discharge of this obligagation, were to alienate the taxpayers of the Transvaal, but that from the merely business point of view we should do ill by jeopardising the issue of the next £20,000,000.

MR. CHURCHILL: Will the right hon. Gentleman reply to the suggestion of the right hon. Member for West Bristol that security should be taken on the Premier Mine and other mining royalties?

*MR. LYTTELTON: I have dealt with that suggestion. This was, in effect, a voluntary debt—a debt of honour which is not enforceable by law. I may be wrong; but I think we should do better not to treat a debt of honour as if it were a thing to be secured. Does the House know what the facts are with regard to the debts of the self-governing Colonies to this country? The population of the self-governing Colonies is about 12,000,000, and their debt is £400,000,000, borrowed almost entirely in this country; and there has not been default in a single shilling of the interest. Hon. Members wish to take security for a debt of honour from them. That is not the view of His Majesty's Government. It is of no use to give one's own confident anticipations; but I say deliberately for myself and for the Government that, in the first place, we think we shall better keep the affections of the people of the colony, and are more likely to recover in due time the full amount of this contribution, if we exercise some forbearance, and if we leave it to their good will and sense of honour to take upon themselves this obligation. We believe it is the right course and the one more likely to produce relief to the pockets of the taxpayers of this country; and, above all, we believe that it will not tend in any degree to jeopardise the harmony and good relations of the two countries for which the Motherland has sacrificed so much.

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick): The right hon. Gentleman urges that we should not be in a hurry to place on the Transvaal a burden of £30,000,000 which it is not in a position to bear, and which therefore must cause a certain amount of hardship and distress. No one urges that that should be done. But when the right hon. Gentleman reproaches us with feeling warmly, and says that we should not feel warmly if we had a precise conception of the facts, we must point out that it is just because our conception of the facts is clearer than his. The right hon. Gentleman has no conception of the facts on which this loan of £35,000,000 was guaranteed by us. The right hon. Gentleman says that the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, in getting the assent of the House to that guarantee, though he mentioned the promise of the £30,000,000 loan, stated at the same time that the payment must depend on three conditions; and because it was to depend on three conditions the right hon. Gentleman says the House has no right to feel aggrieved if the conditions have not been fulfilled. But the whole point of the speech made by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was that those conditions were then present. The impression produced on the House at the time was exactly that represented by the right hon. Member for West Bristol the other day.

*MR. LYTTELTON: Will the right hon. Baronet read the passage in the speech of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham?

SIR EDWARD GREY: The right hon. Member for West Bristol summed up the impression produced on the House in this way. He said that the tone of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was rather one of apology for not having exacted the promise of a larger sum than £30,000,000; but that he urged the House to be content with £30,000,000 and no more, because it was "a bird in the hand." That is the interpretation of that speech given by one of the oldest and most experienced Members of the House when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): No; he was not Chancellor of the Exchequer.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Then he was, perhaps, in a more impartial position; and he was certainly a not less old or experienced Member of the House. The right hon. Member for West Bristol is certainly as qualified as any one to sum up the impression produced on the House by a debate; and if the impression which the right hon. Gentleman has described was produced, what is the good of quibbling about conditions? The fact remains that when the House was induced to guarantee a loan of £35,000,000 by mystic representations of what the Transvaal might do in return, the persuasion was founded, not on judgment, but on impulse. Till the Colonial Secretary realises how the House has been deluded in the past by this impulsiveness and want of judgment, how can we have any confidence in his anticipations about the future? What we feel warmly about is not what is taking place now, but the way in which the House has been misled about the whole transaction. But I will say a word about the future. The Colonial Secretary has admitted that the reason why we have not got the £30,000,000 is that the country could not afford it, and that the prospect of obtaining the money is founded on the possibilities of a mine not yet developed. I really think, after the disappointments of the past, it would be better to leave these off-chances out of account. Let us at any rate not be deluded about the future, whatever may have happened in the past. The Government might have done something in the past to make the chances better than they have become. They have let slip any chance of getting any public recognition of the obligation with regard to this sum of £30,000,000. They say that they cannot do it now because the present form of government is to be modified. But two years ago we were told that the form of government which was not then modified was going to register this obligation. On July 27th, 1903, the right hon. Member for West Birmingham used these words—

> "I do not entertain the slightest doubt that the Legislative Chamber of the Transvaal will pass the Bill. The only reason that they have not yet done so is that communications have been passing as to the exact form of the Ordinance."

If that had been done, at any rate, it would have been a public recognition of the obligation, though it might have been one which you would say would not be binding in the same way as if made by a representative and responsible Government. Still it would have been the only form of public recognition available. That opportunity was neglected, and now we are told that we cannot have a recognition because the present form of government is to be modified. Thus we have no recognition except the guarantee of private individuals. There is no question of the honour or the good faith of the private individuals, but the matter about which there is a question is how far they were ever held to be entitled to lay an obligation on the whole of the Transvaal. The Colonial Secretary said it was a debt of honour. I should like to know how far it is understood in the colonies that those gentlemen who gave the guarantee were entitled to pledge the colonies. Do not let us get into any dispute with the colonies about a debt of honour. If they had had representative and responsible government, and that Government had undertaken this obligation, it would have been a debt of honour and we should have had no hesitation in charging it upon them; but now we must go cautiously in the matter.

As to the chance of getting the £30,000,000 in the future, I should like to know, when the Government change the Constitution of the Transvaal, whether they are going to make any conditions in the sense in which the right hon. Member for West Bristol last night indicated might be done with regard to the £30,000,000. I am not very anxious that they should make any condition. If they are going to give representative government—a kind of intermediate stage which can be given without responsible government—what they will be giving will be so little worth while that they had better not complicate it with any transaction about the £30,000,000. But if they are going further and are going to give representative and responsible government, then I think the question will arise whether, in giving it, anything should be said about the loan of £30,000,000. On that matter I would speak with caution with regard to the future. If it should be the case that the Transvaal is unable from poverty to undertake the additional burden of £30,000,000, I should not urge that the gift of representative and responsible government should be handicapped with a condition of that kind, and for this reason, that I should like when the Constitution of the Transvaal changes at all, to see a clean and living job made of it. When we give representative and responsible government let us start under the best possible conditions, and, above all, with good will between them and us.

More than ever do I regret the way in which this question of the £30,000,000 was introduced by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham so optimistically, because time shows that it is more and more in danger of becoming a source of friction between us and the Transvaal. At the present moment it is not important, but when you come to the subject of responsible government it will be important. I therefore put forward one practical suggestion. If when you give responsible government to the Transvaal it is still unable to incur the extra burden of the £30,000,000 loan, you might represent that our part in the transaction, which this House regards as a complete transaction, was fulfilled by the raising of the £35,000,000 guaranteed by us. We might point out that we have fulfilled to the letter our part of the bargain by guaranteeing this sum, that the Transvaal has had the benefit of the money, that it has benefited to the extent of £350,000 a year compared with what its position would have been had it raised the money without the credit of this country. If the repayment of the £30,000,000 is to remain in abeyance the time may come when the prospects of the Transvaal improve, and when we might raise the point whether they could not make some extra contribution comparable to the annual benefits they have received by the use of our credit, and which would year by year hasten the repayment of the £35,000,000 loan already granted. I put that suggestion forward because I see in the debates and in the feeling of the House, which is inevitable after what has passed, a danger in the future, though not at the present moment, of this subject causing friction between ourselves and the Transvaal Government; and I am exceedingly anxious that when we come to the point of granting responsible government to the Transvaal the concession should not be handicapped by any friction or lack of good will at the start.

Sir Edward Grey.

***Mr. CHURCHILL** agreed with the hon. and learned Member for Dumfries that in regard to this repayment we should not take up any exacting or ungenerous attitude, or seek to prejudice the early days of a colony recovering from the devastation of a great war. That feeling was general on both sides of the House, and the Colonial Secretary would not attempt to suggest that that point of view was overlooked by those who criticised the proceedings of the Administration. In the words of the right hon. Gentleman, they did not wish "to jeopardise for the sake of money the good feeling which prevails between the different parts of the Empire." That argument did not find favour on the other side of the House last year, when a proposal was made with regard to coloured labour which was much resented by the Australian Colonies and other parts of the Empire. But the Opposition considered the argument valid then, and they thought it valid now. Certainly this question ought not to be approached with any idea of revenge, or of punishing any particular class of persons in South Africa for their share in the war, or for the opinions they had expressed. There was no room for revenge in politics. Possibly there was no room for gratitude, but there was certainly no room for revenge. We should look forward to the future, and not attempt to mete out abstract justice to any particular class of persons for what they had or had not done in the past. What had to be considered was not what the mineowners had promised, but what we thought it right to require. We had not to consider the guarantees of the mineowners in particular, as they had no real authority to commit to immense liabilities a Government not then called into being. They made a promise which was binding upon themselves under certain circumstances, and he had never heard any statement on their part that they wished to evade their responsibility. But there was a bargain, described by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol, who spoke with immense authority on this subject, as a matter of faith and honour which, if broken, would constitute a breach of faith with the House of Commons and the taxpayers of the country. He was certain the Colonial Secretary did not underrate the gravity of the situation, but he would read one extract from the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham in which the bargain was commended to the House. It was true that the House might be misled by isolated extracts, but it would be seen that this one could fairly be taken apart from the context. The words of the right hon. Gentleman were—

> "But the whole arrangement must be treated together; and I might almost say that the support of the Committee to the loan of £35,000,000 which is now under consideration is indeed conditional upon the contribution of £30,000,000 to which I have referred."

We had pledged our credit for the £35,000,000, but whether the other part of the bargain would be carried out was extremely doubtful. He saw little prospect of our securing the £30,000,000 promised as a complementary and indissoluble part of the bargain to which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham invited the House to assent. But could we now take any security? We did not want to do an unhandsome or grabbing thing, and after such a vast expenditure of money and of life it would be egregious folly to prejudice all hope of a permanent settlement for the sake of £20,000,000 or £30,000,000. But he had heard no answer to the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol, who asked why a security should not now be taken on the mining royalties of the Premier Mine for the repayment of, at any rate, a portion of this money. There might be good reasons against such a course, but they had not been stated. When this agreement was put forward, the House of Commons were seized of the general circumstances prevailing in South Africa and allowance was made for them, but a new factor had now come in. He remembered being present at the action of Diamond Hill, but little did they think, when they lay down that night, of the fabulous wealth concealed below the bivouac of the Army. The Premier Mine had come, so to speak, as a gift from Heaven to the colony; why, then, should we not take some security with regard to this windfall as to some portion of the guarantee for the repayment of the money for which, on every moral ground there was a liability on the part of the Transvaal towards this country.

These South African gentlemen were a very powerful organisation. There was no getting over that fact. They had tremendous influence in the Press and in society; they used very effective arguments, and they had means of bringing those arguments to bear on all sorts of occasions and in all sorts of ways. During the last four years there had been various controversies between the Imperial Government and the Johannesburg gentlemen, and in every one of those controversies the Johannesburg influence had prevailed, the Imperial Government having been defeated in the end. Lord Milner had been the principal advocate; he had no other friends in South Africa, and he naturally had to fall back on those who backed him. That was one reason why he had always thought it was a great pity that the Government had left, to make the peace, the man who made the war—and he would say the same with regard to the new appointment which had been made. In every one of those disputes, whether it was the question of coloured labour, or of the treatment of Indian subjects in the Transvaal, or of the loan raised on the credit of this country, or of the repayment to be made, the gentlemen in South Africa had succeeded in putting such pressure, through the Colonial Office, upon His Majesty's Government that the arguments which commended themselves to the good sense of the House had been defeated and swept away. He asked the House to consider that in all these three conferences they had been defeated by this powerful organisation, which was going to be used in the Press, in the House of Commons, and on all the platforms, to prove that all those who drew attention to this bargain were animated by sordid and unpatriotic motives. If they did not take effective security for this money before setting up a local native government, they might be perfectly certain that they would never get the money at all. The Colonial Secretary said he hoped that no one would impugn the honour of a Government yet unborn, but they ought to look at things as they really were. It was no use deluding themselves by golden visions. If representative government were granted, did they imagine that any candidate appealing to the electors would declare that he was in favour of the payment of £30,000,000 to the people of the British Islands? What conceivable man, asking either for Boer, Afrikander, or Johannesburg votes, would have a chance of being elected under such circumstances? They must look at facts. He did not say they would be doing a dishonourable action, but he would like to ask what continuity of identity was there between the Government they were going to call into existence and the gentlemen who met the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham round the table at that conference? They did not recognise any debt of honour. They ought to take the security which was necessary, and if they did not do so they would never get a farthing of the money upon the promise of which they were induced to guarantee a loan of £35,000,000.

MR. BRYN ROBERTS said that previous speakers had spoken as if the British public were a set of capricious and avaricious people who had taken advantage of a voluntary offer to contribute towards the war. This was an extremely mean view, when they recalled the circumstances that led to the war. The question he wished to refer to was upon whom the responsibility for paying this contribution should fall. Those gentlemen, who were liable to guarantee this £30,000,000, had given assurances which history had falsified in every particular. False reports were sent to this country and newspapers were corruptly influenced in the Transvaal to misrepresent the actual state of affairs, and to induce this country to take the step of bluffing which led to the war. No more disgraceful episode ever occurred than the methods adopted by the mineowners to force on this war; and they, having succeeded by forged letters and all sorts of corruption, were now told that it was disgraceful, on our part, to suggest the slightest doubt that they did not intend to pay a debt of honour. He did not regard this as a debt of honour or a voluntary gift, for that was entirely a misrepresentation of the actual facts. Really the Transvaal ought to pay the entire cost of the war, £250,000,000, and because this country was letting them off to the extent of £220,000,000, and asking them only to pay £30,000,000, sordid and avaricious motives were being ascribed to us. Why was a different principle applied in the case of a colonial war to that which was applied in the case of an Indian war. Whenever there was a war in India, although it was not waged by the Indian people, but by Englishmen sent out there to rule India, every farthing was charged upon India. This was so in the case of the military operations connected with the Tirah, Chitral, and Tibet campaigns. These wars were charged upon India, although the income of the average Indian subject might be counted in shillings per annum, and yet these mineowners, it was said, would be ruined it they were called upon to pay only one-eighth of the cost of a war which they themselves persuaded the English Government, by misrepresentations, to undertake. To him it seemed a piece of impudence for the mineowners to come whining to the House and suggesting that they ought not to make any contribution to the war at all. The right hon. Member opposite placed much reliance upon the fact that the Transvaal Government was a nominated Assembly; but a nominated Assembly was not a representative Assembly, and possessed no power or mandate to do anything which the mineowners objected to.

The right hon. Gentleman said it was a monstrous thing to impose this burden upon the Transvaal, because the war was commenced with the assent of the people of this country. He denied that that was the case, for their assent was never asked for, and the only question placed before the country was whether, having commenced the war, the Government should carry it through. The assent of the people to the nefarious steps taken in the Transvaal, by which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, and Lord Milner, were gulled into bluffing the Transvaal, had never been approved of by the people to this day. The country was quite willing that the war should be carried through, but not a single hon. Member opposite would venture to go to his constituency and risk his return upon convincing the people of the justice of the South African War. [Ministerial cries of "Oh, oh!"] The right hon. Gentleman had spoken about the importance of keeping the affections of the people of the Transvaal. On the Opposition Benches they had been as energetic as any persons in the world in endeavouring to retain the affections of the people of the Transvaal, but by the people they did not mean the mineowners, but the inhabitants of the country at large. As regarded the mineowners of Johannesburg he did not care one straw about alienating their affections, and he only regretted that their affections were not alienated five years ago, for then they would have saved this country £250,000,000. Was the right hon. Gentleman opposite really afraid of alienating their affections by imposing upon them this liability? Why was he not afraid of alienating the affections of the British taxpayer? Let him look at the record of recent by-elections and he would see what the British taxpayers thought of the war. The danger, to-day, was the far more serious one of alienating the affections of the British taxpayer rather than the affections of the Transvaal mineowners. He quite agreed with the statement that, if the Transvaal could not pay, then we should have to pay the money ourselves. He was quite prepared to recognise that fact. He did not see, however, what was the use of talking about people not being able to pay when they owned property which was paying dividends at the rate of from 300 to 4,000 per cent per annum. If all the dividends above the working expenses of the mines had been exhausted, he would have been quite willing that every farthing of this promised contribution for war expenditure should fall on the British taxpayers. Until that happened, however, nobody would say that the Transvaal mineowners should not pay the £30,000,000 which had been promised.

Mr. MARKHAM said that when the late Colonial Secretary went to South Africa there were agreements made other than those mentioned by the Colonial Secretary to-day. The first agreement made with the mineowners was in respect of dynamite. For a good many years there had been a great agitation going on in South Africa with reference to the action of the late Government of the Transvaal in regard to dynamite. It was one of the causes of the late war. After the visit of the late Colonial Secretary to South Africa the mineowners said they were willing to put up a dynamite factory in South Africa. They asked the late Colonial Secretary whether he would give a preferential tariff to enable them the better to compete with the manufacturers in this country, of whom there were many, who in the past had sent large quantities of dynamite to South Africa. He had been asked to mention this matter by the dynamite manufacturers, because the coast duty of 1d. per pound, which was imposed for the benefit of the De Beers Company, had completely closed South Africa as a market for them. The owners of the local factory which was put up in Cape Town reaped immense benefit in consequence of the imposition of the tax imposed on dynamite imported from Europe. In a book recently published it was stated on the authority of Mr. Eckstein that previous to the war the cost of dynamite entailed on the mines a charge of no less than £500,000 on account of the excessive charges which the mineowners had to pay in the time of President Kruger's Government. What had happened? When the late Colonial Secretary was in South Africa he came to an agreement with the mineowners by which they were to pay a tax of not over 10 per cent. In that way the mineowners had gained £340,000 on the profits tax and £500,000 on dynamite alone. They had also an immense advantage in railway rates as compared with the pre-war period. It was stated in Sir Percy Fitzpatrick's book, "The Transvaal from Within," that these charges made by the Netherland Railways were so excessive as to represent £1,000,000 sterling a year. While the mineowners obtained these advantages as the result of the war, they had given us nothing.

Another serious matter arose in connection with the discovery of the Premier Mine. The Colonial Secretary had during the past year ratified an agreement with the mineowners giving to them not what they were entitled to under the old law of 1898, namely, one-eighth, but four-tenths of the mine. The right hon. Gentleman now told the House that the Government were going to receive £500,000 a year of profits. He said that that was a bad bargain in every sense of the word, because the total number of white miners working the Premier Mine only amounted to the wretched number of 200 or 300. The Premier Diamond Mine consisted of 4,000 claims, and before the amalgamation of the De Beers Mines there were 40,000 white men in Kimberley alone on the fields. All these mines could have been worked by white labour. The washing alone did not exceed 2s. per ton, and the amount derived from a ton of soil treated came to something like 20s. When he brought the matter before the House the answer he got was that it was necessary that the Government should create a monopoly in diamonds, because if that was not done the price of diamonds would fall to such an extent that diamond mining would become unremunerative. That was a very curious argument for the Government to set up, especially when the price of diamonds was maintained at 50s. a carat by the De Beers Company. He knew the influence that caused the Government to say that the price must be maintained. It was because of the influence which the De Beers Company brought to bear on Lord Milner. If the Premier Mine had been thrown open there would have been an immense white population working on those fields to-day instead of the wretched 200 or 300, and they would have brought up the political equilibrium in the Transvaal which to-day was in great danger. As to the question of security for the loan, he would say that, being a pro-Boer, he knew from his Boer friends that they were going to repudiate the loan and have nothing to do with it. He had stated during and since the war that he did not see how the future Transvaal Government could be bound by a body of alien German-Jews and a cosmopolitan crowd of financiers, who had entered into an agreement with the late Colonial Secretary. They had no right to bind the people of the Transvaal, and the Boers, who were the majority of the population, would not be bound. Unless we took security before granting the Transvaal what the Colonial Secretary called representative government we had not the remotest chance of getting a farthing.

The Transvaal had great resources, and he had no hesitation in predicting that there would be a large surplus if economy was shown in the administration of the country; and if our Government did not get back from the Transvaal at least £30,000,000 of the war expenditure they would deserve very little consideration from the country. He hoped, however, that the Government would be out of office before this matter came to be dealt with. The right hon. Gentleman had all these difficulties to face. All the odium fell upon the present Colonial Secretary, while the late Colonial

Secretary escaped; therefore he was truly sorry for him. As one holding strong views about South Africa, he asked the right hon. Gentleman whether it was not possible for him to give careful consideration to the opinion and advice which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol tendered a night or two ago. Unless the Government got that security, what they would get from the Transvaal was not worth a farthing. That, really, should be self-evident to the Colonial Secretary. The right hon. Gentleman must know well the fact that the majority in a future representative Assembly in the Transvaal would oppose any contribution towards the war expenses.

There was another point. He had been asked by some influential Boers in South Africa to urge, in that House, the justice of granting full responsible government to the Transvaal. Those Boers had accepted the British flag; they had loyally carried out their part of the contract. [Ministerial cries of Oh, oh!"] Let hon. Gentlemen opposite say in what particular they had not carried out their bargain. They were now British subjects, under the British flag, even if they had gallantly fought in defence of their own country. What would be the result if these people were denied the rights of citizenship, and a form of government set up which was not representative of the people but dominated by the capitalist influence in South Africa? He believed he was right in stating that the Boer population in South Africa would have nothing to do with a form of government which was not a fully responsible government; that they would rather have no form of representative government at all, and that the present system should be retained. If the Transvaal was settled why not give the people of the country responsible government? The Boers were the majority of the voting element at present, and besides them there were Germans and people of other nationalities from all parts of the world. Moreover, there was a large body of dissatisfied Britishers who had thrown in their lot with the Boers. If that was the case, what would the future be if a full measure of responsible government were not granted? He would therefore implore the Government, after all the mistakes they had committed, to give to the people of the Transvaal a Constitution which a free people could accept as satisfactory.

Mr. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said that the views of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary did great honour to his heart; but he took too generous a view of human nature. He absolutely told the House that it was far better to have a debt of honour than a good security. If the right hon. Gentleman himself told him that he owed him £100, he knew that the right hon. Gentleman would pay him and he might not perhaps go to the Colonial Office and ask security. But these cosmopolitan financiers of South Africa had not the same high sense of honour as the right hon. Gentleman. When they came to dealing with those cosmopolitan gentlemen on a matter of £30,000,000 and a question of security for it, as a matter of business he would not take their honour, even if they swore to it. He liked security. The right hon. Gentleman asked the House to regard those men as the noblest of patriots, and said that they had incurred great risks in underwriting this loan. He defied any hon. Gentleman on either side of the House who understood City business to say that these men incurred one sixpence of risk. Let these gentlemen be taken at the general valuation of this House, was it likely that they were going to incur a great monetary risk without getting a *quid pro quo*. Their *quid pro quo* was that they got a guarantee, or promise that they should not have to pay more than 10 per cent. on the profits of their mines. That was an enormous advantage. It was as if some one said "Let me get an arrangement so that if you do something that produces absolutely nothing, I will promise you never to increase the income-tax." The House should not run away with the idea that those contractors for the loan were actuated by a patriotic spirit. They did not incur the risk of loss or of gain except in this, that part of the bargain was that this country was to guarantee the loan to the Transvaal of £35.000,000. A large amount of that money, as the right hon. Gentleman knew, was to be spent in the development of the Transvaal; and everybody knew that it was a very great advantage to people who had mines to have a railway close to their mines. Part of the development was to make railways running up to their mines. It was a matter of pure business that they should undertake an obligation in regard to the floating of this £10,000,000 loan; and it was uncommon good business for them.

He always thought that hon. Gentlemen opposite had many excellent qualities, but that their memories were defective. At the time the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham came back to this country from South Africa he said that our claim for £30,000,000 from the Transvaal was too little, but that the payment of that £30,000,000 was a certainty. He had no doubt the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham believed that at the time, but he was entirely under a delusion. And what was the result? It was that this country guaranteed the loan of £35,000,000 on the distinct understanding that we were to have that £30,000,000. Whether we should get it he did not know. At any rate, the payment of it had been put off two years; and the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary now said that it might be something like another five or six years before we got it. Some might make it seven years, but let them call it five. Who was paying the interest on this now? Why, the taxpayers of this country were. They had already paid £2,000,000 or more; and in five years more they should have paid £7,000,000, whereas they had a bargain, a distinct understanding, that they should be relieved of that. They wanted the bird in the bush as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol said. [Cries of "Bird in the hand."] He was wrong in talking of a bird in the bush. Why, it was a bone in the mouth of a tiger wandering about the middle of South Africa. Several hon. Gentlemen had praised the speech of the right hon. Gentleman because it was an effort of tardy repentance. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol when he was Chancellor of the Exchequer was always looked upon as a hard-headed man of business; and the House did not push the matter very far because they were under the impression that the right hon. Gentleman was of opinion, as their representative in the Government, that they had got security that they would get the money. And now the right hon. Gentleman blamed them, and told them that they ought to have been more careful. He held that the right hon. Gentleman was more in fault for not seeing that good security for the money was obtained. The right hon. Gentleman urged the plea that this demand should be put off until the Transvaal had received what he was pleased to call representative government. He himself quite admitted that there was a certain point in that; but it was only on the supposition that the Transvaal was to receive real self government within a few months. They knew, however, that that would not be the case; and it would be monstrous to ask the new Government, which did not represent the country or our own ideas of self government, to tax the people for this purpose.

He believed it was nonsense to say that the Transvaal could not pay. The Transvaal could pay perfectly well. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the amount per head of the population; but when most of the money went into the pockets of a few thousands the amount per head must be small. But the gentlemen who had made millions and millions out of the country could pay. The poorest of the people in this country were taxed on their tea and sugar in order to save the shoulders of these millionaires. The right hon. Gentleman spoke a great deal about the Premier Mine. He spoke rather as if he were promoting the company. Let this country get that mine as a security. Let us say to the representative Government, "You are men of honour; we all trust you in England; but besides trusting you we should like a little security such as the Premier Mine; allow us to earmark that so that the profit may go towards the payment of the interest on the loan." That would be a very reasonable offer. He thought the right hon. Gentleman was not fair to his predecessor, who he was sorry to read was indisposed. He made the most serious accusation against his predecessor in office than he himself had ever heard. The right hon. Gentleman said he never admired the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham more than when he entered into this arrangement. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham did not, at any rate, run away from his opinions like other people; and as an honest man of business he would probably say that perhaps he had made a mistake, and that he regretted it. But, according to the right hon. Gentleman, this arrangement was the most admirable thing the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham ever did in his life. He considered that that was an insult to the right hon. Gentleman. He himself was not an indiscriminating admirer of his; but he would admit that the right hon. Gentleman did better things, especially when he sat on that side of the House. Was it proper to say of an able and intelligent man that the best thing he did in his life was to let himself be fooled for £30,000,000 sterling. If the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary could get £5,000,000 for the liability he would advise him to accept it.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) said that the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary had promised him an Answer to the Questions he submitted yesterday with reference to Ceylon. Perhaps the right hon. Gentleman would answer now.

*MR. EMMOTT (Oldham) said the Colonial Secretary had taken credit for forbearing to force through a nominated Assembly in the Transvaal the issue of the first part of the £30,000,000 loan. He agreed with him in that. It would have been making a grievous and calamitous mistake. The first issue would have caused friction and the remainder of the loan would not have been issued. What he wanted to point out, however, was that if the Colonial Secretary ever meant to get any money he must either force it through the present Legislative Council or else he would not get it all. It was important that the Government should make up its mind whether they were going to have the cash and bear the discredit in the Transvaal of forcing it through or whether they were going to magnanimously give up any claim they might have? He must confess that, in this matter, he did not agree with some of his friends on his side of the House. He believed it was impossible to get this money unless it was forced through the Legislative Council. In the first place the Colonial Secretary was bound by the pledges of his predecessor. He could not raise the income-tax on mining profits to more than ten per cent., and, in the second place, the late Colonial Secretary promised that nothing should be done to hinder the development of the Transvaal. He believed he was right in saying there was urgent need in the Transvaal for more money, for more roads, for the extension of railways, for schools, for technical education, and for a great reform in the state of the prisons, which were in a most shocking condition. If there were a surplus it was already mortgaged in anticipation for these various objects in such a way as to prevent the issue of a loan. The third condition laid down was that it could only be regarded as a debt if it was accepted voluntarily by the people of the Transvaal. What was this so-called debt of honour. It appeared to consist of a particular resolution passed by fourteen capitalists, and certain other capitalist representatives, on a certain day, when the late Colonial Secretary met them. They agreed to the principle of the issue of a loan of £30,000,000, but they, and they alone, agreed. The great bulk of the people of the Transvaal had never been consulted about it.

*MR. LYTTELTON: The Miners' Association of the Transvaal are parties to it.

*MR. EMMOTT said he was, perhaps, underrating the number of people who agreed. At any rate, he was correct in saying that the great bulk of the population were left outside the agreement. It had been said by the right hon. Gentleman that the agreement should not be put into force until representative government was introduced. But when there was representative government what possible chance was there of the representative Government agreeing to the payment of £30,000,000? It had been pointed out by his colleague the Member for Oldham that it would be impossible for anyone seeking election to the representative Assembly in the mining or agricultural districts of the Transvaal to issue an election address in which he would say he was in favour of so and so and he was willing to give £30,000,000 towards the cost of the war, a war that had devastated the very country which was now being asked to pay this money. It would be impossible to get this money, and he did not believe, from the point of view of this country, that it would be wise for them to try to get it. They must look at the matter on broad and statesmanlike grounds. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer the Member for West Bristol suggested something like a bargain being made when representative government was given to the Transvaal. But it would be undesirable to make any bargain with the kind of representative Assembly the Government proposed to constitute. If they were going to have responsible government for the Transvaal it might be possible to make a bond, but not with such a half-and-half Assembly as they proposed to put up. But he went further. Even if any bargain were made with any Assembly it would give rise to everlasting friction. It would be an unusual thing to do with a country which was annexed. It was a wrong system altogether to annex a country and then ask it to pay an indemnity. No indemnity was ever asked from Alsace-Lorraine when they were annexed by Germany. If a country were annexed the Government of that country should not subsequently be asked for an indemnity. Even though he might be in a minority, he was glad to have an opportunity of putting his views before the House, for he felt very strongly on the matter. It might be asked if he meant that we were to spend so much money and lose so many lives and get nothing back. He thought they might reasonably ask for the £350,000 a year which the British guarantee had enabled the Transvaal to save on the first loan, but he did not think the Transvaal should be asked to pay it as an indemnity for the war. It might be asked for as a contribution to the Navy. He fully admitted that the average man in this country desired to get something out of the mine-owners, but he believed sound and statesmanlike policy should shrink from such a course. After all, who dared say in that place, on whichever side he sat, that we went to war for the sake of the mine-owners of the Transvaal? We did not go to war for them, but in the first place because the Queen's dominions were invaded, and in the second place because of the enormous importance of South Africa to the Empire. If the Government meant to do what he thought an unwise thing, levy part of the loan, they must do it now. But they should give up the idea that they would get it, or even ought to get it, from a representative Government in the Transvaal.

Sir EDGAR VINCENT (Exeter) said he agreed with the hon. Gentleman who had just sat down that it would be most unstatesmanlike to enforce anything on the Transvaal Government at the present time, whatever might be the convenience to this country. This had always appeared to him an unusual and highly complicated arrangement, and whatever view we might take about it, it referred to past conduct and did not help to get us out of our present difficulty. The real practical point was that we could not get this amount without imposing on the Transvaal, against the will of the people, a heavy financial burden. He believed if the arrangement originally made by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was allowed to stand, and if the attitude of the Colonial Secretary was adopted and we said that this was a debt of honour which we hoped, as soon as representative government was established, would be met by the Transvaal, that would be a miscalculation, and the net result would be to considerably diminish the chances of repayment. He felt from the financial point of view it would have been much better if hon. Gentlemen opposite had left unsaid a good deal of that which they had expressed with regard to the good faith and honour of the Transvaal in this matter. The real point was: Was this country justified in guaranteeing the loan of £35,000,000, and it appeared to him that the hypothecation of revenue as a guarantee of repayment was sound and adequate. He did not think there was any chance of recourse being had to our financial resources. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol on a previous occasion, in an interesting speech, appeared to adopt the view that we should take somewhat strong measures, lay hands on the Premier Mine, and make the source of revenue accruing from that mine our chance of repayment. He differed from the advice given by the right hon. Gentleman. Any attempt that we made to use the revenue coming from that mine on account of our distrust of the new form of Government in the Transvaal, would be regarded as an act of suspicion by the citizens of the Transvaal and would very much diminish our chance of obtaining payment of the £30,000,000. He urged the Government not to take advice from any quarter which might lead them to take such action as might be construed as distrustful of the new Government's intention to fulfil its obligations.

Mr. JOHN BURNS said he wanted, if he might, to congratulate the hon. Member for Carnarvon, Eifion, whose rising was received by the exodus of hon. Members from the House, on the way, after five years of misrepresentation, abuse, and calumny, in which his views on South Africa and the war in South Africa had been justified. He also desired to say how much better it would have been had the House accepted the view of the hon. Member and that put forward by the Leader of the Opposition. Although this country had been guilty of a mean action in entering upon an unwarrantable and dishonourable war at the instance of not the mineowners directly, but as a consequence of the Jameson Raid, without which there would have been no war at all, that was no reason why this country should at this moment follow up that mean action by another, and it would be mean indeed for us who were responsible for breaking up homes, for destroying crops, and bringing misery and destitution where rough comfort prevailed, to ask the people of the Transvaal to undertake the obligation of paying out of their slender and impoverished resources £30,000,000 which the mineowners did promise, though it would not, in his opinion, be a breach of faith on their part if they did not pay it. He held the view of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol, who had made the most clear and cautious speech he had ever heard on the South African problem. We could not enforce payment of this £30,000,000, nor could we put it on the Transvaal, save as a debt of honour.

He was surprised at the Colonial Secretary being so sensitive of criticism with regard to the mineowners. The right hon. Gentleman had no right to defend them in the way he had done. He had no doubt that if the mineowners, who were now using the opportunity to shuffle out of their obligations, were brought before a jury at the Old Bailey they would be kept to their promise and, failing that, would go for a term of hard labour for having treated this country in the way they had. They were too strong for the late Colonial Secretary, and the present Colonial Secretary would have to exercise tremendous pressure if he was to succeed. Every promise they had made they had evaded. One of the conditions of our getting the £30,000,000 was that they should have facilities for developing the country. Chinese labour was the first facility! But how differently the Colonial Office treated the demands of the mineowners as compared with Mr. Kruger, who, when asked to allow Asiatic labour, declined on the ground that South Africa was a white man's country, especially so far as open work or work in the Premier Mine was concerned. When the mineowners said that unless such labour were permitted the mines could not be properly worked, Mr. Kruger simply said what the Colonial Office ought to have said—that if they would not work the mines in the interests of South Africa the Government would. He wished there had been a man of Mr. Kruger's character, strength of mind, and determination at the Colonial Office during the last few years; there would not then have been an expenditure of £250,000,000 on the war, a request for £30,000,000 from the mineowners, or the imposition of the degradation of Chinese labour upon South Africa and the British race. There was also the question of cheap dynamite. That had been given them, but they had no idea of giving any *quid pro quo*—which, by the way, they pronounced *quids pro quo.* Although they had secured so many advantages they now boggled over paying their share of the cost of the war.

But the point he wished to urge was as to the Government having a greater lien or security on the Premier Mine. He warned the Colonial Secretary that unless he secured for the British people, or for the people of the Transvaal and South Africa generally, the major share of the interest in the Premier Mine before the Legislative Council was elected, the mineowners would so gerrymander the vote, as they did in regard to Chinese labour, that every man elected would support the proposal to sell the Transvaal share in the Premier Mine to companies such as were now engaged in corrupting the constituencies with that very object. To allow this valuable asset to slip from the hands of the Transvaal people would be a crime which many would afterwards regret. He appealed to the Colonial Secretary not to part with this revenue of £400,000 a year from the Premier Mine, and, before the Legislative Council was elected, so to control the distribution of the money as to render impossible its sale for £3,000,000 or £4,000,000 to a syndicate now in course of formation. Unless the threatened gerrymandering was prevented it would lead to one of the most disastrous blunders and crimes even in the history of South Africa. The Government had not been wise before the event. Their lack of patience and temper, their insufficient knowledge and intelligence before the war, practically placed South Africa in the hands of a gang of unscrupulous mineowners, who reminded him of Dr. Johnson's words that "patriotism was always the last refuge of the scoundrel." The country had had a sample of their handiwork; we had lost life, property, credit, and prestige, and events might eventually prove that we had lost a continent. He begged the Government not to facilitate that loss of a continent, but to give Lord Selborne such instructions that he would sit on the necks of these cosmopolitan financiers who had played ducks and drakes with our honour and credit in South Africa. It should not be forgotten that circumstances had changed. The men who flew to the guns five years ago to save England from losing South Africa did not feel that way now. The rich men in South Africa now took the view that unless the Government carefully guided affairs through the stormy period of the next few years we should witness the best of the Britons and the whole of the Boers linked up by a common aim and destiny against the mineowners who had betrayed the Government's trust and treated Boer and Briton in an unjust and scandalous way, and when that day came not 20,000, nor even 100,000, soldiers would be sufficient to hold South Africa. He, therefore, begged the Government to be warned in time by a pro-Boer who had had his windows smashed, and who, if Lord Selborne required help, would be glad to put them on the right track.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said a great deal had been urged as to the need of consideration for the mineowners, on the one side, and for the Boers on the other, but he wished to say a word about the need of consideration for the poor taxpayer of this country. He calculated that the non-payment of this £30,000,000 meant a loss of about 17s. per head of the population of this country, or about four guineas to the head of a family. That was a small matter to Members of the House, but to men with wages of 24s. a week it was a very serious consideration, especially when it was remembered that for the last five years these poor taxpayers had been paying, directly or indirectly, higher prices for almost everything they had to buy. He therefore refused to assent to the view that mineowners or Boers should be considered before these taxpayers, of whom he represented some 15,000. Of course, he deprecated the taking of any step which would place upon the Boer population of the Transvaal an unfair burden. The farming and pastoral Boers had no hand in bringing about the war; and to call upon them to pay this money would be both unfair and unwise. According to the Colonial Secretary, this money was to be regarded as a debt of honour. But the mineowners who guaranteed it were perfectly able to pay it now, and if they refused to recognise it as a debt of honour now, they were not likely to recognise it later on. He submitted that it was perfectly possible to devise means for securing to this country the payment of the £30,000,000 without inflicting any unfair tax on the Boer population. Measures might be adopted with regard to the mines which would bring in sufficient revenue to liquidate gradually this debt of honour. There were large tracts of metalliferous country held by mineowners at nominal rentals, and to which they had no legal claim. Why should they not pay a fair rent for those lands? And what about the mining royalties? Instead of reproducing the system which obtained in this country, the Government might have commenced *de novo*, and have insisted that all mines should belong to the State, that the revenue from them should go to the State, and that if the working of the mines was let out to corporations or individuals a proper royalty should be paid to the State. Such royalties would produce a revenue which would soon liquidate this so-called debt of honour. He did not wish to go back on the miserable past, but it was significant that man after man, Colonial Secretary after Colonial Secretary, should appear to be caught in the net of these South African mineowners and to dance like puppets at their bidding. The Colonial Secretary never rose in his place without saying something in defence of the mineowners, very little for the Boers, and nothing at all for the taxpayers of this country. In the name of his constituents and the people of this country, he claimed that the Government ought to do everything in its power to see that the obligation of the mineowners in South Africa was properly carried out.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester) said that, representing a great industrial community numbering nearly 250,000 souls, he claimed that they ought to insist upon the payment in full of the millions of money which this country had advanced to the mineowners of South Africa. He did not suppose there was any hon. Member of this House who would have the heart to go to the distressed, starving, ruined, heart-broken agriculturists of the Transvaal in order to tax them further with regard to the devastating war which this country had levied upon them. If there had been no goldfields in South Africa there would have been no war. Professor Lecky, in anticipating the events in South Africa. said there was a strong vein of gold running through all the negotiations. When they were voting those millions for the supplies of the Army in the field, it was repeatedly stated that the cost would be repaid, not from the agricultural industry, but from the vast and almost inexhaustible wealth of the gold and diamond mines. From that bargain they ought not to budge one inch, and they should hold the mineowners to it, and make them repay in full every penny which they had guaranteed to pay. The Colonial Secretary worked himself into a state of uncontrollable excitement and indignation because they were not willing to worship at the feet of these men who had pledged their word of honour. The Colonial Secretary was a lawyer of considerable eminence as well as a politician, and he was inclined to believe that it would have been better if the right hon. Gentleman had made a plain confession instead of leading them along this fool's paradise still further than they had gone. If he had declared that his Government did enter into a certain business transaction in which they had been absolutely worsted, and advanced millions without an atom of security; and if he had admitted that it would depend upon the moral obligation of those who borrowed whether they repaid or not, then they would have cheered the Colonial Secretary and looked upon him as a man of courage and determination. But the right hon. Gentleman rode off upon another issue, and he wanted them to accept without a doubt the word of honour of a band of men who were mostly foreigners, and who had no sympathy with the people of this country.

Those men were holding hundreds of millions of valuable assets in British colonies which had been won by British money and British soldiers. He could conceive only one business way of dealing with them, and if he could have his way he would exercise the authority of Parliament to extract from this endless wealth which the mines gave a repayment at least of the money advanced after the war was ended. This money had to be paid by the British taxpayers generally, who had no direct means of organising themselves to influence the Government to insist upon the reclamation of this money. What would have taken place if this £30,000,000 had been owed to a few City of London financiers, and the people owing it had been the inhabitants of some small South American Republic. They all knew what would have happened. Not long ago when there was something interesting to the financiers of this country and of Germany we joined forces with Germany and sent a demand over the seas in the form of ships belonging to the British Navy to enforce the debt of some private persons. He was aware that they could not send ships to the Transvaal, but they could send other authority equally effective. He did not think he was extreme in saying that whilst the wealth was there, and the debt was owing, the British Government ought to see that every farthing of the debt was paid in full to the British taxpayers. Why should his poor constituents have now to pay poor rates to keep the men who had been maimed and ruined for life in the South African War, who were now within the walls of the workhouses being maintained out of the rates which were being paid by people almost as poor as themselves. These vast sums of money were advanced to facilitate the working of the mines in order that profits might be made for the shareholders. Surely this was an occasion where they should use no rose-water methods, but where it should be clearly understood that now, or some time in the near future, this money must be repaid in an honourable and straightforward manner, or else means must be adopted to secure it.

The Colonial Secretary said they could not force it through the Legislative Council now, and they must wait until there was a proper constitutional authority created in Johannesburg in order that they might take up this liability. Could the Colonial Secretary give them his word of honour that when this popularly elected Assembly met they would acknowledge the obligation agreed to at a public meeting of mineowners and their nominees? He would not give them his word of honour nor a word of hope or encouragement that he believed that this liability would be taken up and acknowledged by the newly constituted authority in Johannesburg. Nothing of the kind. There would be a Parliament elected in this country he hoped before many years were over, although the present Government was very much like the Mad Mullah, always in hot water, but they never would dissolve. Such a new Parliament would not be called upon to redeem pledges given by a dozen men in the City of London, and neither would this public authority feel itself called upon to honour an engagement entered into by private persons who were clamouring not for the welfare of the country but for increased profits out of their own mines. Some of his hon. friends had discussed this matter in a tone that would lead people to think that they would willingly give up this £30,000,000, but he for one was not going to budge one inch of the ground in the direction of giving away one farthing of that £30,000,000 if he could help it, so long as there was any wealth in the mines of the Transvaal, and means of making the mineowners liquidate their honourable engagements. He hoped that any South African authorities who read this debate would not be lead astray by any admissions or suggestions of that kind, because he believed that the next Parliament, when elected, would insist upon a full, ample, and exhaustive return of the money which had been spent in the interests of the mineowners and in their interests alone. They had a right to insist upon the return of those vast sums of money which had been taken out of the pockets of the British taxpayer.

Mr. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said he felt bound as an Irish Member to express the hope that under no circumstances would any portion of this £30,000,000 of debt be remitted. What fell from the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham after his visit to South Africa induced the House to give the guarantee of the Imperial Exchequer for the £35.000.000

loan, and the consideration held out to the House was that the people of the Transvaal, and especially the owners of the mines, would contribute £30,000,000 so as to make together £65,000,000 for the setting up of the colony. Ireland stood in a peculiar position, because the Childers' Commission some years ago showed that it was overtaxed to the extent of between £2,000,000 and £3,000,000. Why should Ireland stand aside and allow this £30,000,000 to be, as it were, given as a present to this South African colony? It was no concern of the people of Ireland that the principal burden might fall upon the South African mineowners. They were very well able to bear it. They indulged in every luxury, and they were in the enjoyment of great wealth. The people of Ireland were the worst clothed, the worst fed, and the poorest in Europe, and they were overtaxed to the extent he had mentioned. On what principle of justice and natural equity could it be said that this great sum should be remitted to South Africa while Ireland complained in vain of its over-taxation? Within the last day or two, when the Irish land question was under discussion, it was stated from the Treasury bench that one of the difficulties in carrying out the Land Act of 1903 was the Exchequer difficulty. While there were contracts for the purchase of land to the extent of about £25,000,000, an amount likely to be doubled in a short time, the property could not be transferred because the Exchequer could not see its way to advance more than £5,000,000 a year. Was that argument to be used against the carrying out of this beneficent measure, while at the same time the Ministry was to assent to remit £30,000,000 really to the mineowners and capitalists of South Africa? He made no apology for entering his protest against remitting that sum while the argument was advanced that the Land Act must be blocked for want of money.

Question put.

House divided:—Ayes, 256; Noes, 196. (Division List, No. 77).

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt.Hn. SirH.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F. (Middlesex
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt.Hn. J. A. (Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Man'cr)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredrk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(T'rH'm'ts
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D (Wednesbury
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn Lord G (Midd'x

Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard(Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords.N.W.
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain HerbertMerton
Kennaway,RtHn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt. Hn.Col.W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, JohnGrant(Yorks.NR
Lee, ArthurH(Hants.,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Bristol,S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Iver,Sir Lewis (EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHn Sir H.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H.(Dumfriesshire
Milner,Rt.Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. W. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith,H.C.(North'mbTyneside
Smith,RtHn.J.Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M‘Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt Hn.J.G. (Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H.(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn.Sir William H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H. (Yorks
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. HerbertHenry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellice,CaptE.C.(SAndrw's Bghs

Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan, W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Ed. (Fermanagh, N.
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford
Richards, Thos. (W.Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Major Seely and Mr. M'Crae.

Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said as a sum of money for the Board of Education was included in the Vote he desired to ask a Question with reference to the physical condition of the children of the working classes in the schools, and particularly as regarded lack of food in many cases. On September 2nd, 1903, the Board of Education appointed what was called the Physical Deterioration Committee of which Mr. Almeric W. FitzRoy was Chairman. The Committee sat for days and examined sixty-eight witnesses, including Dr. Eichholz, Colonel Lamb of the Salvation Army, Mr. C. S. Loch, Mr. Charles Booth, and the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University. The Report of that Committee was one of the most important of State documents which the House had ever had before it. It dealt with the whole condition of the working classes and with the physical condition of children. On this Vote, however, he must confine his remarks to the recommendations regarding children. He complained that so long a time should have been allowed to elapse without anything practical having emerged. The Report recommended that a survey should be made year by year of the children in the schools so that reliable *data* might be obtained as to the effect of school life on the physique of the nation, and also better physical training generally. It urged the systematic medical inspection of children in the poorer schools as regarded eyes, teeth, and ears, and made two proposals for legislation, one for the prohibition of cigarette smoking by small boys, and another with regard to the provision of food for children who attended school, and who were suffering permanently from mal-nutrition.

Nothing more cynical had ever come under his notice than the disregard shown by the Board of Education for this vitally important question of the physical condition of working-class children, particularly in the matter of food. He was himself formerly a teacher in an extremely poor school in Bristol. He had under his care about 300 working-class boys. About thirty of them did not go home at all during the dinner hour because there was nothing to go home to; and about sixty brought to school a paper parcel containing a rough crust of bread and perhaps a raw onion, or some bread and margarine, or similar food. These two figures accounted for nearly one-third of the boys, and the case was typical of all slum areas in our big cities at the present time. He well remembered seeing two brothers, with the hoar frost on the playground still white at mid-day, sharing between them a cold turnip for their mid-day meal. They could not build Empire on that kind of thing. Yet it could be ended to a great extent by the administrative action of the Board of Education. The witnesses spoke most pathetically of this lack of food. The master of the Victory Place School at Walworth in his evidence stated that the boys were not in a fit condition to receive instruction. He added that he sent to a baker's for all the driest crusts he had in his shop, and the boys ate them ravenously, though they did not know he was observing them. Miss Deverell, an inspectress under the Board of Education, stated the master of one school informed her that the children got most of their meals by meeting workmen's trains and begging scraps from the men.

What was going to be done about this? This thing could not be permitted to continue any longer. There was abundant evidence, including the testimony of Dr. Eichholz, as to the lamentable lack of proper food ascertained among the school children of the poorer districts, including the adjoining district of Lambeth. The whole question centred round feeding. There was, first of all, the want of food, then the irregularity of the food, and, thirdly, its unsuitability. These were the determining causes of the degeneracy of the children. Where was the raw material for the Army and Navy to come from if that state of things continued. The breakfast of these children was bread and margarine, and their dinner was only what could be obtained at a fried fish shop for a penny. Within a gunshot of the Guildhall, the master of the school reported that several boys came without breakfast, and the mother of one boy came in the afternoon to the school with scraps of bread. He himself had seen the miserable condition of many of the puny little scraps of humanity upon whose weak shoulders the burden of the Empire would ultimately rest. No child in this country ought to be hungry. The great bulk of parents cheerfully made unknown sacrifices to provide for their children, but they must attend to the child in any case before pursuing the neglectful parent. He was not asking that they should in any way undermine parental responsibility. In all the great Continental cities they were attending to this question, and in Paris they had a coupon system whereby 8,000,000 meals were provided at a cost of £70,000, of which the parents paid about £20,000 by way of coupons, £15,000 came from voluntary contributions, and there was only £45,000 as a public charge. In London such a system could not possibly cost more than a halfpenny in the pound, and that extra halfpenny would ensure that much of the 1s. 2d. rate was not, as at present, wasted where it was most wanted. The rate at present was 14d. in the pound, but the expenditure was altogether wasted where it was most needed because of the physical condition of the children, and what the Londoner had to ask himself was whether he would go on paying this 14d. with the assured knowledge that the whole of it was wasted where it was most needed, or make it 14½d. with the assured knowledge that he would have a beneficent result from the whole of the expenditure. This was not a scheme for undermining parental responsibility at all; it was a scheme for developing parental responsibility, and for securing to the children who would ultimately be the stewards of this Empire what every child now had in all Continental cities, viz., one square meal a day.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said that this was a matter not for the Board of Education only, but for the whole Government. Before the Report of the Physical Deterioration Committee, there was the Report of the Royal Commission on Physical Training in Scotland, which revealed with regard to Scotland matters quite as serious as those brought to light by the later Report with regard to the whole of the United Kingdom. The question concerned the Home Office, the Local Government Board, the Board of Education, the Irish Office, and the Scotch Office. All those Departments ought to have read and studied this Report, and its entire neglect by the Government had filled him with consternation. The Board of Education appeared to be the only Department which had moved in the matter; they had drawn up a syllabus of instruction in domestic economy, and appointed another Committee to make further inquiries. The time for inquiry was past; the time for action had come; and it was most discreditable to our powers of administration and legislation that after so exhaustive an inquiry into so important a subject the Departments concerned had not yet declared what recommendation they intended to adopt and why they refused others. He reminded the Secretary to the Board of Education that Dr. Eichholz's evidence was given in November, 1903, that his investigations were conducted by order of the Board of Education for the purpose of giving evidence before this Committee, and that no doubt had ever been thrown upon Dr. Eichholz's accuracy or competence. The Report of the Committee was made in July, and it was not until March that it occurred to the Board of Education that further inquiry was necessary. He hoped before the session was over positive declarations would be made by the various Departments concerned as to what steps they intended to take to carry out the recommendations of the Committee or to deal with the great evil which that Report had shown to exist. For his part he promised—and he hoped the hon. Member for Camberwell would join him—that on every possible occasion he would bring the matter before the House—on Scotch Estimates, Irish Estimates, and the Scotch Education Bill. The Government would not get rid of him until they took the matter up seriously and treated the interests of these children as they would the interests of any powerful body of constituents whose votes they were anxious to secure.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that as he was at the head of the Local Government Board at the time this Report was issued he might be allowed to say a word. The view taken by the Local Government Board was that there was a great deal in the Report which could not be dealt with without legislation, and that what could be done by administration would require careful examination not only by the Department, but also by their medical advisers. He did not remember anything in the Report with which his Department could have dealt with effectively immediately. After all, they had nothing to do with children in school. The Local Government Board were concerned with matters affecting the general health of the people, and they could not accept any charge that they had neglected that duty in any particular.

SIR JOHN GORST referred to the recommendation that the Local Government Board should make regulations as to the supply of milk.

MR. WALTER LONG said that one of the last things he did before leaving the Local Government Board was to obtain the sanction of the Treasury to an additional staff to carry on certain work in connection with the Adulteration of Food Acts, so as to be able to keep local authorities up to the mark in that respect. One of the everyday duties of the Board was to receive reports from local authorities and to ascertain what they were doing. During the last few years there had been a remarkable improvement in the activity of local authorities with regard to impurities in milk and other articles of food, and in order that the Board might do the work thrust upon them by the last Adulteration of Food (Amendment) Act they had increased their staff so that the work might be thoroughly supervised and properly done. Therefore, he did not think that the charge of incompetency could be levelled against that Department, and certainly if anything could be done to improve the administration the House could rest assured that it would be done.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) said that the Board of Education was powerless to provide for the feeding of children in the elementary schools. When the Board was charged with being slack in carrying out the recommendations of this Committee he must remind the House that the Report was issued only last July, and that throughout the autumn he had been inquiring of persons with a practical acquaintance of the life of the poor as to how this question—which became the more difficult the nearer it was approached—could be dealt with. It was not a new question. The children had not lapsed into this underfed condition in the last two or three years, and he had in vain searched the Department for any record of the interest taken in it by the right hon. Member for Cambridge University during all the years he was in office.

SIR JOHN GORST said that in 1899, in introducing the Education Estimates, he told the House that most of the money was being wasted because the children in the schools were not in a fit condition to be instructed.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that he was glad that after four years of official life the right hon. Gentleman had paid attention to the subject. Some part of the Committee's recommendations concerned the Poor Law administration. If children came to school in a starved condition, surely the managers could bring the parents of those children under the operation of the Poor Law or the law directed against cruelty to and neglect of children. But the evil lay deeper than the coming to school occasionally of underfed children. They ought to get to know exactly what were the conditions as to the children who daily attended school. The evidence was uncertain. The London School Board placed the number of children attending school who were hungry at 10,000 in one year, by Dr. Eichholz it was calculated at 60,000, and later at 122,000. They desired to know what was the precise extent and nature of the evil complained of. It was a question of the physical condition of children varying very much in character. There were the children who had been ill-fed or ill-cared for from infancy, and who were so backward in development as to require a different course of study. Then there were the cases in which children were occasionally left without food because of illness or want of employment of the parents. These cases needed different treatment. He was told that where meals were supplied on the school premises the immediate result was that the parents relied wholly on charitable effort. This administration of meals ought to be conducted with the greatest care. To take away from the parents the duty of supplying meals for their children, and to break up family life by inducing the children to have their meals regularly at school, might have disastrous results socially. What it was necessay to get at was the extent of the evil and the proper remedy. Neither was known at present. It was not fair to attack the Department for negligence in a matter of such pathetic importance when the essential facts were not known and when a false step might have such serious consequences.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to Standing Order No. 15, put that Question.

The House divided:—Ayes, 241; Noes, 183. (Division List No. 78.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon. Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Fredk. George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H.F. (Middles'x
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A(Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C.R.
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Man'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredkr.
Gordon, Hn J.E (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj. Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Green, Walford D(Wednesbury)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Lord G (Mid'x
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'ry
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords. N.W
Helder, Augustus
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks N.R
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn. Sir H. E. (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Peel, Hn. Wm Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)

Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, H. C. (North'mbTynes'd
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M‘Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirC.E.H.(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton-und-Lyne
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H.(Yorks.
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C.B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffiths, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie,J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil)
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy,Vincent P.(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir JosephF.(Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Ed. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie(Dumfries
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj.J.E.B.(Isle of Wight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.

Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

EVENING SITTING.

PROTECTIONIST PROPOSALS.

*MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) said that the substance of the Motion he had the honour to move was taken from the speech of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham at Glasgow in October, 1903. In that speech the late Colonial Secretary advocated a preferential tariff arrangement with the Colonies, with a tax on food and a 10 per cent. duty on imported manufactured goods. The first branch of the Motion had been dealt with a short time ago by his hon. friend the Member for Oldham. The Colonial Secretary in his reply objected to the form of the Resolution and said—

> "Let us get out of a bewildering and endless maze into the safer region of a concrete proposition."

He now proposed to deal with the second branch of the subject, in regard to which no fault could be found, as the wording of the Resolution was sufficiently concrete, and in doing so he would like to call attention to certain statements which had been made in regard to it. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham in his speech at Glasgow said—

> "Now a moderate duty on all manufactured goods, not exceeding 10 per cent. on the average, but varying according to the amount of labour in these goods—that is to say, putting the higher rate on the finished manufactures upon which most labour would be employed in this country, and the lower duty on goods in which very little or less labour has been employed—a duty, I say, averaging 10 per cent., would give to the Exchequer at least £9,000,000 a year."

Whilst the Prime Minister at Edinburgh during the previous autumn said—

> "A protective policy, as I understand it, is a policy which aims at supporting or creating home industries by raising home prices. . . . The means by which it attains that object is by the manipulation of a fiscal system to raise home prices. If the home prices are not raised the industry is not encouraged."

And later at Manchester—the "sheet of notepaper" speech, said—

> "Fourth and last—I do not desire to raise home prices for the purpose of aiding home production."

The point he was anxious to enforce was that the country had noted a distinct difference of opinion between the views of the Prime Minister and those of the late Colonial Secretary. The late Colonial Secretary expected that one of the results of his policy would be to raise home prices for imported articles. The objects of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham were admirable, as all would agree, his desire being to increase labour and wages at home and leave a large surplus in the Exchequer. He, however, submitted that the end did not justify the means. If, as the right hon. Gentleman expected, a duty of 10 per cent. excluded foreign competition, the home market could not have the same supply in proportion to the demand, and prices must therefore rise. If the foreigner was only partly excluded by the import duty, the prices would rise in proportion to the extent of the exclusion; and the Birmingham policy suggested that he would pay the whole of the 10 per cent. rather than be excluded at all. Was there any hon. Member who believed that this would be the case? But it was said that this was an academic question, and that no action was to be taken to further the fiscal policy during the lifetime of this Parliament. It might be an academic question to the Government and their supporters; but it was neither an academic question in the country nor for the future of the Conservative Party. The Conservative candidate for Bute in his recent election address said he was a supporter of the policy of the Prime Minister—

> "Who had declared that policy in unmistakable terms."

That statement had highly delighted the electors because Scotch constituencies had been trying to find out what that policy was. Unfortunately for this Gentleman, however, the Scotch electors had a habit of heckling, and at one of the meetings he was asked whether he was a subscriber to the Tariff League, to which he replied—

> "I am; and I am a supporter of Mr. Chamberlain."

The result of that election was known, and yet it was said that the seat was lost to the Unionists owing to the misrepresentations of Liberal speakers. He was sorry, having regard to the number of hon. and right hon. Gentlemen who had supported the right hon. Member for Birmingham at the various meetings he had addressed, that there was not a larger Unionist attendance that evening. The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who presided at a meeting at Tynemouth in October, 1903, said—

> "Mr. Chamberlain had gone to plough a furrow of his own, but it was not a 'lonely furrow.' For all his objects Mr. Chamberlain carried with him the hearty approval of his colleagues in the Government he had left."

He was, however, pleased to see the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield, "amid the faithless faithful only he," in his place. The action of the Prime Minister with regard to this Motion had been the old Indian policy of masterly inactivity, but he (Mr. Ainsworth) thought the result of the division that evening would be to place the Prime Minister in a more independent position than he had been for long. They were all of opinion that the policy of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was played out, and the Prime Minister had scored all round. He begged to move.

MR. RICHARD CAVENDISH (Lancashire, North Lonsdale), in rising to second the Resolution, said he should like to express the regret which they all felt at the enforced absence of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, and the hope that they might soon again have the pleasure of hearing him take part in these fiscal debates. He also expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for allowing this Motion to be discussed and voted upon without any official hindrance on the part of the Government. He felt he could speak for those Unionists below the gangway who had remained true to the principles of free trade when he said they were deeply grateful to the Government for allowing the question, for the first time since this controversy began, to be decided on the merits. Speaking for himself, he believed the Government would have been well advised if they had adopted this course from the outset. It would have been not only better for the Unionist Party, but more in accordance with the traditions and dignity of the House. Objection had been taken to this Motion that it raised an abstract or academic question, but that, as had been shown, was not the case. Taking the situation as it existed to-day, he could conceive of many interesting abstract Resolutions. They might have a Motion as to whether discretion was the better part of valour. They might have a Motion as to whether when one is suffering defeat it is better to stand up to the foe to the end or to take the defeat lying down. Or they might have a Motion—Is moral courage a political virtue? All these subjects would, he was sure, cause very interesting debates, though they might not "enable Members upon whose assiduity the existence of the Government depends to enjoy those social functions for which the new rules of procedure were specially intended to provide opportunities."

The Motion before the House dealt with the proposals of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, and had nothing whatever to do with any other proposals, least of all had it anything to do with the fiscal changes that were in contemplation by the Government. He was thankful that it did not fall to his task to explain what the fiscal proposals of the Government were, but, whatever they might be, he felt certain they contained nothing in the nature of a general tariff on manufactured or semi-manufactured articles. That being so, he hoped to see most of the members of the Government and their supporters go into the lobby in support of this Motion. The first and primary duty of the supporters of tariff reform was to show that these changes were urgent and necessary. During the last year and a half they had told the people that our trade would be destroyed; that if something was not done speedily disastrous consequences would ensue. Most gloomy prophecies were made, but it was a notorious fact that not one of those dismal prophecies had been realised. On the contrary, every one had been falsified, and instead of the trade and commerce of the country getting worse and worse it had risen to a higher and ever higher level. That fact needed no statistics to support it, but out of respect to the consistency and courage of the hon. Member for Central Sheffield, who he understood was going to move an Amendment, he would make one quotation which he obtained from the Engineering Supplement of *The Times* that morning. It was dated "Sheffield, March 17th."

> "This is the company meeting season in Sheffield. Just at present the big firms and the investing public are thinking more of dividends than of engineering schemes. Within a short period all the important limited liability companies will be holding their annual meetings and all of them seem to be able to meet their shareholders with pleasure and confidence. . . . All the firms speak hopefully of a revival in trade. With the new year there came a brightening of the outlook, with an increase of orders all round."

He did not base his opposition to the Glasgow programme of colonial preference upon the fact that trade was good. Assuming for the sake of argument that trade was bad, and likely to become worse, the placing of duties upon manufactured or semi-manufactured articles was the very worst thing that could be proposed. As most of those articles played very important parts in the commerce and industries of England, any duties placed upon them would handicap our manufacturers in the competition which they had to encounter, and so far had encountered successfully, in the neutral markets.

It was almost unnecessary to say more in objecting to a scheme of tariffs such as that suggested. In his opinion tariffs would be bad not merely for trade itself but disastrous to the future conduct of business in this House, and that was a thing which he did not think any tariff reformer had seriously taken into consideration. We had fortunately in this country been singularly free from certain features which characterised the Legislatures of other countries, and he was convinced that if we once departed from the wholesome system which we now enjoyed we should not be able to prevent such a state of things He objected to tariffs also on the ground that they would lead to the creation of large trusts and monopolies such as were to be found in Continental countries and in the United States of America. We were at this moment almost free from such monopolies and trusts, and he thought it would be the worst day for us when we set up tariffs which would enable them to be brought about. As a Member for a Lancashire constituency he protested as strongly as he possibly could against any scheme of tariffs for this country. The staple industry of Lancashire was flourishing now, and that was due to the free-trade principles of the country. He defied the ingenuity of the most skilful tariff reformer to frame a tariff of import duties which could be of the slightest benefit to the cotton trade of Manchester, and equally he defied them to draw up any list of duties on articles which would not inevitably do that trade considerable harm. He had the greatest pleasure in seconding the Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, the imposition of a general duty on all manufactured goods imported from Abroad not exceeding 10 per cent. on the average and varying according to the amount of labour in these goods would be injurious to the commercial interests of the United Kingdom."—(*Mr. Ainsworth.*)

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): The House are probably acquainted, through the ordinary channels of information, with the course which the Government propose to adopt, and which they propose to advise those who act with them to adopt, in regard to this Motion. Our view is that for reasons which I shall state presently, it is not desirable that this should be made in any sense an occasion upon which the Government Whips should be put on. More than that, we think it would not be desirable, either on this occasion or on next Tuesday or Wednesday, or on the Tuesday or Wednesday of the week following, as long as hon. Gentlemen opposite desire to carry on among themselves this interesting discussion, that we should take any part in it ourselves, or advise those who act with us to follow any other course. I observe that that announcement has met with some displeasure on the other side. [OPPOSITION cries of "No, no!"] I am glad that for once on a tariff reform question we should all be of one mind. Such a thing has not come within my experience before; but for once it appears that the course which His Majesty's Government have determined to pursue on this occasion is one that commends itself to all sections of the House. Perhaps the House will allow me, however, as it is possible that this universal approval may have different grounds among different sections, to explain the reasons upon which we base the policy that I have just announced to the House. [OPPOSITION cries of "What Policy?"] Use your own name; I never quarrel with a name. This policy is based upon two quite different sets of considerations—one relating to private Members' Resolutions as a whole; the other relating to the special Resolution now before us dealing with a subject upon which the House has already been engaged, and, as I gather from the Order-book, is likely to be engaged at intervals for some time to come.

Now, with regard to private Members' Resolutions, I associate myself with what I gather is the opinion of my hon. friend who has just made an interesting speech, namely, that, as far as possible, it is desirable that private Members' Resolutions should not be dealt with on Party lines, and that the Government Whips should not be asked to tell in the division. That has always been my view. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh," and What about the previous Question?"] That has always been my view; and I think, so far as I can judge from many years close observation of the procedure of the House of Commons, that is also a view which is coming more and more to be the Government view, from whatever side of the House the Government may happen to be drawn. Of course it is true that there are some cases in which it is difficult, and other cases in which it is impossible, for the Government to avoid giving a guidance to the House emphasised by all the machinery of Party display. But I think those occasions should be made as few as possible. I was interrupted just now by hon. Gentlemen opposite, and asked how and why, if these are my general views, I could consent to have the Government Whips put on about a fortnight ago in connection with a Resolution on the fiscal question moved by the hon. Member for Oldham. As anybody will see who refers to the speech which I made on that occasion, the reason why I felt it desirable to act otherwise with respect to that Motion was that I thought, and still think, this House ought not to set the example of passing a Resolution which would prevent the Colonial Conference from being free. I think it would be unfortunate, so far as this House is concerned, but mainly so far as the Colonies are concerned, that we should set an example, which the Colonies might only be too ready to follow, of embodying our special views in a formal Resolution, and thereby hamper those who are to take part in that free conference, which I believe to be the only way of finding a final solution of this question, if, as I believe, a solution is possible. That was the reason for making a great Parliamentary effort to deal in that spirit with a Resolution which would have had the effect I have indicated. But that particular question is settled, so far as this session is concerned. I do not mean the whole fiscal controversy, but the particular question of the Colonial Conference. Upon that occasion all the Party formalities were employed. The Opposition Whips acted; the Government Whips acted. There was a good, honest, straightforward Party fight upon it, and we were victorious. I regretted, even then, to have to put on the Government tellers, though I think the occasion was sufficient to justify it.

The point is one that has not been brought prominently before the House for some time, because Governments for many years past have been in the habit of robbing private Members of almost all their opportunities of bringing forward these abstract Resolutions. Until the new rules of procedure came into force these opportunities were few and far between. I hope the example which I have endeavoured to set in this respect will be followed by my successors, and that private Members will be allowed to retain the privilege—often a valuable privilege, often not wisely or well used—on two evenings of the week before Easter, and one evening between Easter and Whitsuntide, of bringing forward Resolutions in what terms they please, free from unnecessary limitations. But do not let the House make any mistake upon this point. If it becomes, as I think it will increasingly become, the practice to allow the House on these occasions to act without the ordinary machinery of Party management, the inevitable result will be, and must be, that the conclusions at which the House arrives on these occasions will be treated as very interesting expressions of opinion, but expressions of opinion which do not govern policy. I do not believe that that can be avoided. I think it is much more dignified to state beforehand that that will be the case than to do what hon. Gentlemen opposite have been obliged to do—to put on the Government Whips and have all the Party machinery set to work to guide the House into a particular channel, and being completely defeated on that matter, to say good-bye, to use a vulgar phrase, and to treat with complete indifference the decision arrived at.

A case has been quoted in the Government of Mr. Gladstone which began in 1868, when the Government was defeated in 1872 by a majority of 100 on the question of local taxation. Nothing happened. They did not resign, but left the thing alone. The thing Mr. Gladstone was required to do by the House of Commons was a very formidable business. It involved nothing less than a great legislative measure dealing with local taxation. I think the Government was justified in treating with indifference the Resolution of the House, because the House had not the ordering of Government business. The Government might have thought it their duty to resign, but they did not take account of the Resolution. But there is a much more interesting case at a later date to which I have seen no reference in public, and that is the example set by hon. Gentlemen opposite in Mr. Gladstone's Government which began in 1892. The particular case I am now referring to was a private Member's Resolution on the form of Indian examination, which was carried against the Government, and against the Government tellers, on a certain Friday night. To carry out the mandate of the House of Commons required no legislation. It could have been done by the Secretary of State for India by a stroke of the pen. But, rightly enough, as I think, he did not do it. That Government neither resigned nor did it obey the House of Commons. It left the matter alone. I certainly am the last person ever to criticise its action or inaction in the matter. I believe there was a great national interest at stake, and I think the Secretary for India would have been criminally foolish to take account of the vote of the House, even though it was passed in a formal manner against the Government Whips, as it was passed. Though I do not blame right hon. Gentlemen nor Mr. Gladstone for having ignored the deliberate verdict of the House, I do think it would have been better to have allowed the House to act on that occasion without the formality of Government tellers; because certainly it is a stiffer thing to ignore the House of Commons when you have done your best with the machinery at your disposal to get it to take one course, and when through obstinacy, which may show firmness or may show stupidity, it insists on taking another, I think it would have been better if the Government of that day had done their best to carry out what I admit cannot be a universal policy—that of allowing the House on these particular occasions to take its own course unrestricted by the ordinary Party methods. These are general observations as to the views which I have always held, although I may not always have been able to carry them out, and which my successors will more and more desire to carry out, and in doing so they will have my support.

I leave these general considerations as to the way of treating private Members' Motions, and I come to the particular Motion of to-night. What I have to say about the Motion is that the policy which I recommend my hon. friends to adopt, the House will understand I equally recommend them to adopt with regard to every other Motion on the fiscal question. I will with all respect give my reasons for that advice. The House knows, because I have stated it more than once in the House and the country, that I have regretted from the very beginning of this controversy that it should have been necessary to treat as a matter of immediate Party difference a subject which from the nature of the case cannot be dealt with by the existing Parliament. That is my view, and the majority of the present Parliament take that view. I have always thought it unfortunate that both the House and the country should have been asked to take up this matter. I daresay some Gentlemen sitting on these benches have felt that that advice could not be followed; that the public interest in this question in some of its aspects was too keen and could not be kept out, as I think it ought to have been kept out, of the day-to-day controversies of Party. I know I do not carry general support with me on this subject. I believe, therefore, the precedent set on this occasion is one which will be followed in future on other subjects; and no doubt we shall be as anxious, when in Opposition, to know what views various members of the future Government held upon Home Rule, and whether the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose wholly agrees in every respect with the future Labour member of the Cabinet with which he is to be associated; whether they touch politics, the actual politics of the session, or even the politics of Party. I do not think this new plan is a good one, but, of course, if it is adopted by one side it can be adopted by the other. I venture to hazard a prophecy that, on the whole, from a mere narrow Party point of view it will be more a gain than a loss.

I should like to know exactly, and the House would like to know, what the motive is that animates the hon. Gentlemen who framed the Resolution with which we are now called upon to deal. It is quite certain, of course, that their main object was not to influence the House of Commons because this House of Commons would have nothing to do with carrying out this policy one way or the other. It is altogether apart from the duties which are thrown upon it. Therefore, it wholly differs from an

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ordinary Resolution intended to influence the House or intended to modify the course of the Government and the policy, the present, actual, living policy of the country. That cannot be the object, because, whatever the result of the debate, no effect of this kind can be produced. If it is not to influence the House of Commons, is it to contribute to our knowledge of the fiscal question? I do not know whether the two Gentlemen who have spoken, and who have made, if I may say so, speeches in excellent taste, conceive themselves to be adding much to the knowledge which we already possess, or to the arguments which have from time to time been advanced either by scientific economists in the study or Party politicians on the platform. If they did suppose themselves to be making additional contributions, I think it must have been because their knowledge of the literature of the subject was imperfect, or because they felt that by the charms of their own eloquence they were adding to our knowledge. [Cries of "Oh."] Is that a reasonable interruption? I do not think that anything I said could be construed into an offensive observation. Certainly no offence was meant. I do not at all underrate the House of Commons as an arena for discussing economic questions, but I do not think it is in discussing abstract economic questions that it shines. They are complicated and not easy to deal with in the ordinary rough and tumble of debate, and we have had a considerable amount of discussion upon them already. An ingenious friend of mine made a calculation, which I believe to be under the mark rather than over it, that no less than 1,100 columns of *Hansard* have been spoken on the fiscal question between the beginning of last session and the present moment. Eleven hundred columns is a good deal for us to have added to the priceless treasure of Parliamentary debate upon one subject in one session and a month more.

I do not think that this constant effort by the House of Commons to discuss this question can lead to any fruitful results. Do I stand alone in that view? Am I the only person who thinks so? [An HON. MEMBER: No.] Is there only one person who thinks it has been discussed enough? No, because I remember that in the course of the debate on the King's Speech a formal Amendment, a formal vote of censure, was moved by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Fife; and from his speech it would be seen that he thought the Government ought to dissolve, because this question had been discussed enough.

MR. ASQUITH (Fifeshire E.): In the country, not in the House of Commons.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the right hon. Gentleman, had he had time to reflect, would not have made that interruption. Is he seriously going to draw the distinction which he has now indicated to us? [OPPOSITION cries of "Yes."] Very well; what must it mean? It must mean that either Members of this House are not cognisant of what is said in the country, or that the country is not cognisant of what is said in this House. Allow me respectfully to say that it is absurd to attempt to distinguish in this respect between a sufficiency of discussion in this House and in the country. The discussion has been a public one, whether in the House or in the country; and if it is sufficient in the country it might well be sufficient in this House.

Well, Sir, if that argument were not sufficient, may I bring one other to the consideration of the House? On what principle do private Members draw the Resolutions that they submit for discussion within these walls? I am making no criticism of hon. Gentlemen opposite as distinguished from hon. friends of mine on this side of the House; but does any private Member in drawing a Resolution, on a subject which is matter of Party controversy, draw it in order to get a perfectly plain and unmistakable issue embracing the whole subject before the House, or does he draw it in order to embarrass his opponents? According to my observation—I make no criticism of the Member—it is always done, in these matters, to embarrass his opponents. And why should it not be so? It is quite right. We meet here, no doubt, to further national business, but we also meet here to fight out our Parliamentary differences; and we cannot ask a private Member to be so above the influence of that Party atmosphere in which he lives and moves and has his being as deliberately to set to work to make the issu he raises as convenient, as clear, and a unambiguous as possible, in order that decision may be taken upon it. He does nothing of the kind, and you will never get him to do anything of the kind. I do not blame him for it; but if that be true—and every one who knows anything of Parliamentary custom knows it is true—do not let us flatter ourselves that these private Members' Resolutions are simply dictated by an appetite for knowledge to be obtained by the free exchange of arguments across the floor of the House. Nothing of the kind. That really brings me to what is the last observation that I need make to the House. The hon. Gentleman has been successful in the ballot, and in moving this Resolution was, I understood from his speech—I may be wrong—rather acting with others for our temporary embarrassment by a Resolution which was provided for the purpose.

MR. AINSWORTH: If the right hon. Gentleman is anxious to know how the Resolution was drawn, and who were consulted, I can easily tell him.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no doubt the names are estimable, and I have no complaint to make against the hon. Gentleman and his procedure. But why was it done? Was it done in order again to discuss a question which, as the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Fifeshire says, has been discussed adequately out of doors? Not at all. Of course, it was done to embarrass the Government, an admirable and laudable object from the point of view of hon. Gentlemen opposite. They set a trap. They were quite right to set a trap. We do not propose to fall into it, and we are quite right not to fall into it.

AN HON. MEMBER: Why should it embarrass you?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: That being so, surely it is quite plain that hon. Gentlemen opposite would like us to treat every Resolution on every conceivable phase of this often-discussed question, on every Tuesday and Wednesday, as a vote of censure. We do not propose to treat it as a vote of censure. We do not think that it is consonant with Parliamentary tradition. We do not think it is a precedent that either could, or would, or ought to be followed by any Government which may succeed us, and in these circumstances we do not propose to follow it ourselves. The truth is, Sir, we have had our Party discussions upon the only matter which is relevant to the existing and present issue, the issue whether or not a Resolution should be passed hampering the freedom of the Conference. That fight has taken place. So far as I am concerned I shall not think it necessary to take part in any discussion raised in this way on the fiscal question in future, and if my voice has any weight with those of my friends who habitually act with me, I would advise them both to imitate my reticence of speech, and if they please—and I hope they will please—my absence from the division.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have had a most amusing, interesting, characteristic speech from the right hon. Gentleman. He has asked for what purpose this Resolution has been put upon the Paper by my hon. friend, which is not a usual Question to address to any hon. Member of the House. He has come to the conclusion that it has been put down on purpose to embarrass the Government. But if we had an honest Government, with honest opinions which they had the courage to declare, there would be no need for a Resolution such as this. There would be no embarrassment to the Government. Why does the right hon. Gentleman call it embarrassment? [Interruptions.] There is no embarrassment at all in a Resolution which is a simple expression of opinion. [An HON. MEMBER on the MINISTERIAL benches: Ambiguous.] Ambiguous! The right hon. Gentleman is a master of ambiguity, for he has spoken thirty-five minutes and the House is exactly as well informed now as to his opinion upon the Resolution as it was when he rose. Why, the right hon. Gentleman says that private Members' Motions are to be treated as a mode of amusing the House and the country by a display of oratorical and dialectical powers. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No, no.!"] Well, he practically said so, but that the Government, of course, was not expected to take part in such childish amusement; their business was to settle for the country what its policy should be, and to enforce that policy when they came to a conclusion as to what it should be. Going back to past times the right hon. Gentleman was able to pick out two occasions when Mr. Gladstone disregarded a private Member's Motion, carried against him and against his Whips in the House of Commons. Well, I am fortunate enough to have survived both these Motions. I have the advantage of the Prime Minister in having been present on both occasions. The first was a Motion brought forward by a respected Conservative Member, and to the general amazement it was supported by a great defection of the Whig Party against Mr. Gladstone's Government. The subject had never been before the country, it was a complete novelty when it was introduced into Parliament, and there was no reason to believe that the mass of the people were interested in the subject or had made up their minds upon it. There was no reason, therefore, why the Government should treat it—I will not say not treat it with respect, but no reason why they should treat it as an order of the House of Commons or through the House of Commons a demand from the country, which we were bound to obey. The other case was a case of certain Indian competitive examinations. It was carried in a House almost empty on a Wednesday afternoon by a majority of eight against the Government; and this the right hon. Gentleman said was a result upon which the Government might have been expected to revolutionise its system of examinations.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid I cannot agree.

*SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: That is a case, at all events, upon which he justifies his attitude towards a private Member's Motion. In passing let me say that I repudiate altogether his view of private Members' Motions and his duty to the House of Commons. He almost apologised to-night for intervening in what he described as an interesting conversation. Why, Sir, it is on the

House of Commons, on the support of the House of Commons, that the right hon. Gentleman depends for the position he occupies. Let him prove to us to-night that he has the support of the House of Commons, and let us hear from him first of all a plain statement of his own opinion on this subject. If this is a mere academic question now, it was something very different on previous occasions. Was not a fiscal Motion to be expected to occur when the whole country was agitated by a great propaganda in favour of new ideas on fiscal matters? And when such questions arise is not the House of Commons entitled to have its voice heard? We are told it is a mere academic discussion now; but if it is so now, why was it a critical emergency on previous occasions? The right hon. Gentleman has referred to a fortnight ago, and justified his resort to the previous Question. Well, but that was not the first occasion; we had occasion after occasion last session. There was the celebrated occasion of the Wharton Amendment, and all those attempts of the House of Commons to elicit what we are entitled to know have through all these months been met by devices, by evasions, by sophistications to stave off a clear expression of opinion by the House. The House of Commons has been treated as if it were a sort of "Hall of Mystery." We have not had debates, but something more like séances. The moment the fiscal question came on the lights were turned down, we heard the crack of the whip, but we saw very little, and the question was, so far as we could judge, which particular wing of the Party opposite would hypnotise the other. But we cannot deal with the matter in this bantering, facetious strain; it is too serious.

For two years we have seen the Government quartered on the country, notwithstanding the persistent and continuous indications of the country's indignation against them and repudiacion of them. They have engaged themselves even—in the way they treated repeated attempts to get at the truth of the matter—they have engaged themselves in the task of degrading the House of Commons, while outside they have been proclaiming, or some have, whom they did not venture to contradict, the ruin of British trade, peril to the British Empire, and the probable disloyalty of our fellow-subjects. They have been evading and shuffling, treating concealment as the highest duty of statecraft, and yet, after all, they have deceived no one, neither the country, nor the House of Commons, nor the Opposition, or even themselves. They have pursued concealment as the only means of maintaining themselves in office. Sir, we are now told that the matter is of little importance, that the efforts of private Members to obtain a verdict of the House of Commons are mere child's play, and should be disregarded. All these matchless exhibitions of Parliamentary effrontery were merely intended for our entertainment, and above all to enable us to admire the magnetic personality of one man as set against the dialectical ability of another. That is not the sort of work that the House of Commons should be set to.

We have passed through three stages of this fiscal question in the Parliamentary world. The first stage was when we were told that there was to be a grand inquiry, that until that inquiry was completed our duty was to hold our tongues. Discussion was suppressed. That was the stage of what I would call the closed door. Then we came to a further stage when discussion was reluctantly admitted, but on the condition that on no account should it come to a decisive or clear test, that on no account should there be a conclusion arrived at. Non-committal discussion was to be allowed, some sort of Amendment was to be moved which would neutralise the effect of the whole discussion. Something in the meanwhile was being submitted to the country as a collective policy, which we have had great difficulty in understanding. The treasure was hidden in earthen vessels which were deposited in various parts of the island. There was a pamphlet in Downing Street; there was a speech at Sheffield; then there was another speech at Edinburgh; there was a narrow escape of a third speech at Southampton which the Russian fleet prevented. And that, I think, we may call the stage of the previous Question. But now we have come to a further stage. Those were the stages of the shut door and of the side door. We are now at the stage of the back door. Now all restraint has been removed, perfect freedom prevails on the other side of the House, not only of discussion and decision, but of presence or absence. Those who have exhausted every wile of concealment, every trench that could be dug, every finesse, every trick by which a little advantage in defence might be obtained, strike their camp, abandon their policy and their pretences, and leave their bewildered followers to take part in a general *sauve qui peut.* I observe that most of the tariff reformers are away. We are inclined to rub our eyes. Is not this Nelson's year? Where are the sons of Empire? I should have expected that they would have come here either to bury Cæsar or to praise him. There is one, indeed, I observe, who is faithful, ever faithful, the hon. Member for Central Sheffield, who is the real patentee of these fiscal theories. We cannot but drop a tear over the absence of the others.

And here, Sir, I would call the attention of the House to a thing even more grave than what I have been referring to. To-night we are dealing with a part of this question which is especially associated with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. He has plainly put forward his policy. There is no fog or mist about it. What is controverted by my hon. friend's Resolution is an essential part of his policy. As I understand it, he wishes two things. He wishes to give to his country the abounding prosperity which he finds a high protective tariff has secured for other countries, and, in the second place, he wishes by a stroke of his magic wand—and it will require to be a magic wand to do it—at once to raise a large revenue by the taxation of foreign manufactures, and to increase employment at home by excluding those manufactures from our markets. That is the proposal of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. That is serious enough. But what of next week's Motion? We must regard the conduct of hon. Members opposite to-night in the light of what has been promised for next week's Motion? Next week the Motion is to be an assertion contrary to the peculiar and individual policy of the right hon. Gentleman—the policy, if we can understand it, of the Government, upon which they are going to take the sense of the country at the general election. And yet to that policy also the same process is to be applied — precisely the same treatment. Are we then to understand that the Government have absolutely renounced all policy of their own? They have ceased to attempt to control the votes of their followers. They dare not impose their will upon them, as is shown to-night. And yet this is the policy for which the Government was reconstructed—not the latest reconstruction, but an important reconstruction which still leaves its traces amongst them —and, although they may belittle the policy that is at stake to-night, they cannot surely repudiate their own policy. It is a poor thing, but their own. I say that, on the eve of a general election, coming nearer to us as the days go on and as events occur, the Government are found not to be able to face a decision of the House of Commons. That is the plain English of the tactics of to-night. It is not even the previous Question that is moved. I say let them take, late as it is, the only course that is open to men of courage, honesty, and honour. Let them get rid of this House of Commons, which they can no longer control or trust, and let them appeal to the country and see what the country will say.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said he would endeavour to confine his remarks wholly and solely to the terms of the Motion moved by the hon. Member for Argyllshire. That Motion declared that—

> "The imposition of a general duty on all manufactured goods imported from abroad not exceeding 10 per cent. on the average, and varying according to the amount of labour in these goods, would be injurious to the commercial interests of the United Kingdom."

He thought every hon. Member who had listened to the debate would agree with him when he said that neither the mover nor the seconder of this Motion had shown that a 10 per cent. duty on manufactured goods would be injurious to the commercial interests of this country. He had nothing to complain of in the tone of speeches of the mover and seconder of this Motion, and he thanked them for their courteous reference to himself. Having for the last twenty years by speeches and Motions in this House, and before he was a candidate for Parliament, advocated the putting of a duty upon manufactured goods which competed with the products of this country, he could not possibly, with the smallest consistency, allow the Resolution of the hon. Member for Argyllshire to pass without some few words of challenge. He would endeavour to be as brief in his remarks as possible, but it would be necessary for him to rely upon the indulgence of the House. He represented, and had represented for the last twenty years, a manufacturing constituency, and he could not venture again to go amongst his constituents if upon this occasion he failed to advocate a policy which they had loyally supported for so many years.

In the Amendment of which he had given notice he stated, "That this House looks with grave concern at the continuous increase, since the adoption of the free import system without reciprocity, in competing manufactured goods offered for sale in the markets of the United Kingdom." Had there been this continuous increase? In a Blue-book which was laid on the Table of the House only a few days ago it was stated that in 1860 the importations of foreign manufactured goods was £15,000,000. It rose continually, until in 1903, when, according to the Blue-book, there was a total import of these goods of over £101,000,000. There could be no doubt that this importation had displaced a considerable amount of artisan labour in this country. This was the proposition to which he desired to call the attention of the House. This was entirely a question for the working classes and not a question for the capitalists, who could easily transfer their capital from one country to another where they could obtain the most remunerative return. But working men could do nothing of the kind, for they could not transfer their labour so readily. At the present time the working men of this country found it extremely difficult to support themselves and their wives and children, and they were quite unable to put anything on one side for a rainy day.

According to the Return to which he had referred the importation of articles wholly or mainly manufactured was divisible into three classes. First of all there was the class of articles completely manufactured and ready for consumption in the United Kingdom, and requiring no labour in this country to place them on the market. The importation of this class of goods was increasing very rapidly indeed. In the year 1860 they amounted to £7,000,000, but in 1903 the total was £53,000,000, or seven and a-half times as much as they were in 1860. The second class referred to articles manufactured but requiring to pass through some process of adaptation before consumption in this country, thus affording a little employment to the British artisan. Of this second class, in 1860 £7,000,000 were imported, and in 1903 £43,000,000, or six times as much as in 1860. The third class consisted of articles partly manufactured, thus giving partial employment to the British artisan. Of this third class, in 1860 over £5,000,000 worth were imported, whilst in 1903 the total was £19,000,000, or three and three-quarter times as much as in 1860. The most rapid growth had, therefore, been in the importation of fully finished goods ready for consumption, and giving no employment to British artisans, and the least in the category of partly manufactured goods.

He wished to argue this matter as representing his own constituency, who had felt the pinch very severely in recent years. Here they had £100,000,000 of foreign goods displacing home labour, which were allowed to come here in a preferential manner. They were, in the first place, absolutely free from the trade union regulations which prevailed in this country. They also enjoyed immunity from British factory legislation and from British rates and taxes, and had the advantage often of preferential through railway rates. Hon. Members had avoided the question of the uncertainty of labour in the home market and of the distress which prevailed. [Opposition cries of "Divide."] He hoped hon. Members would give him a fair hearing; he had nothing personally to gain by the fulfilment of these ideas, which he had advocated ever since he had entered the House. In an article in the *Nineteenth Century* the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil stated that in 1903 the sum paid to those out of employment, distinct from strikes, by 100 of the principal trade unions amounted to £504,021, and the total for twelve years was £4,200,000. Therefore, it was clear that the trade unions were placed at a considerable disadvantage in respect of this enormously increasing importation of foreign manufactured goods competing with the home market, in which the trades unionists here ought to have a preferential right of employment. With regard to our factory legislation, he agreed that it was the best in the world, and the operatives were protected against many abuses which prevailed in other countries, but all these foreign goods were received without the slightest inquiry as to the conditions under which they were produced. Therefore, not only was this unfair as regarded wages, hours of labour, and conditions which trade unionists imposed in this country, but it was also unfair because these goods were placed upon the market upon terms and conditions against which the manufacturers of this country could not possibly compete.

He was surprised that the hon. Member opposite had not even mentioned the question of the uncertainty of labour or the great distress which existed at the present time. The whole object of the policy of those who thought with him was to increase employment in this country. It was impossible to represent a great constituency like Sheffield without being impressed with the enormous amount of distress and suffering which existed amongst the artisan class, and a great deal of this distress arose from the uncertainty of employment of home labour. The January number of the *Labour Gazette* of the Board of Trade showed how workmen's wages had diminished in the years 1902–4. In every district of London there was want of employment. He should like to hear the views of the hon. Member for Battersea.

Mr. JOHN BURNS (Battersea): All the trade unions are against you and all the Labour Members of this House.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT said the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil (Mr. Keir Hardie) was not against him, and had on a former occasion divided the House with him on this subject. The *Labour Gazette* showed that there had been exceptional distress during the winter, and exceptional measures had had to be taken to meet it. Did this state of affairs exist in any other country? [Opposition cries of "Germany," "France," and "Austria."] In what town? [An Hon. Member: "All of them," and laughter.] He perceived that hon. Gentlemen would not give him a fair chance. According to a book written by the Member for Aberdeen the total number of persons returned as paupers in the whole of America in 1880 was 88,000, or one to every 565 of the population. In this country the number of persons dependent entirely upon Poor Law relief was over 400,000. If hon. Members opposite had any sympathy with the unemployed—["Oh, oh!"]—how did they show it? Did they show any desire to give the unemployed work? The mover of this Resolution said the whole object of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, for whom he had no authority to speak, was to give employment to the masses of the people. There could be no doubt that the importation of a large quantity of foreign manufactured goods deprived the people of this country of legitimate employment, and it was only right that some toll should be placed on them. The present state of things also led to the emigration of our most desirable young men. Why were so many workmen emigrating and going to foreign countries if the maintenance of our system of free imports was such a desirable and beneficial system? [Cries of "Divide, divide."] There was evidently a great desire on the part of hon. Members opposite to speak, and he would not detain them very long. He could not thank them either for a patient or courteous hearing, but he would like to ask them what was their remedy for the want of employment?

He should have been more interested in the speech of the Leader of the Opposition if he had spoken in some measure to the Resolution of the hon. Member for Argyllshire. He noticed that the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, in a speech he made on November 5th last, declared that the development of the home trade amongst our own people would be the greatest benefit that could possibly happen. Perhaps on some other occasion the right hon. Gentleman would tell the House how he proposed to develop home trade. [Cries of "Divide, divide."] He noticed that the hon. Member for Woolwich had already taken his seat upon the Treasury bench, and he wished to extend to him his hearty congratulations. [Cries of "Time."] He hoped the hon. Member would have an opportunity of telling the House how he proposed to put into practice the views he held in regard to a remedy for the want of employment. The hon. Member for Carnarvon was in his place, and he would like to hear what that hon. Member, who had stated that they wanted something better than the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, had to place before them in the interests of the unemployed and the masses of the people. He hoped the hon. Member would let the House hear what he proposed in the interests of the unemployed, better than the propositions which had been made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham.

Lord HUGH CECIL (Greenwich) said he had listened with interest to the speech of his hon. and gallant friend, who was well qualified to speak to the House on a subject in which he had taken an interest for so many years. He would submit to his judgment one general answer to the interesting line of argument he pursued. The hon. and gallant Member had fallen into the error of believing that there was a certain limited demand for commodities; that if that demand was filled up by foreign labour then there was nothing left for English labour to do. The mistake was that there was no such thing as a limited demand for commodities. The demand for commodities depended upon the purchasing power of the public. If, therefore, they brought in from abroad cheap commodities, that cheapness was the difference between the price of those commodities and what similar commodities would cost if made at home. That difference was a clear gain to the purchasing power of the public, and was, therefore, in the interest of employment and labour. He could not accept the position the hon. and gallant Member laid down that the legal regulations affecting labour in foreign countries were in every case so much less drastic than they were in this country. In Germany, which was the most formidable of our competitors, the contrary was the case. The German laws protected or interfered with the perfect freedom of contract between employer and labour more considerably in reality than did our laws at home. Therefore he was not able to agree with the economic argument which the hon. and gallant Member put forward. But he did very heartily respect him for being there to maintain the view which he held so sincerely. He had taken a reasonable, straightforward, and courageous course. They heard of a mission; he was quite sure his hon. and gallant friend's method was the only way by which people ever made any converts. They could not persuade people to believe they were in the right if they did not take reasonable and rational opportunities of pleading their case, even though the occasion might be one in which they were exposed to an answer.

At an earlier period of the evening they listened to a very interesting speech from the Prime Minister, with most of which he was in hearty agreement He did not at all agree with the Leader of the Opposition in the reply he made upon the question how the Government ought to treat abstract Resolutions. What the Prime Minister said was most wise, and he only regretted it had not been more often acted upon in the past. There was no sort of reason why the Government should interfere as a Government with a great number of questions which came before this House. They had heard in recent discussions that the House of Commons was going down in reputation, and he thought it was true. He believed the fundamental cause of that was the unnecessary intrusion of Party discipline and Party spirit into every branch of their discussions, and it was only by relaxing Party discipline that they would bring back the House of Commons to its former reputation and efficiency. He was, therefore, very glad the Government had taken the wise course they had to-night, and allowed the question to be presented to the House without interfering on grounds of Party loyalty. He could not follow the suggestion his right hon. friend made, that it was desirable not to take part in the debate, or, if there was a division, in the division, because in his view this was one of the very gravest questions which could be raised before Parliament, or which had been raised in their time. He did not know that he thought anything in the world so dangerous to this country, unless it were Home Rule, which Parliament could possibly debate, as the adoption of a general system of protection. He was convinced that not only was it an entirely quack remedy for whatever industrial or commercial difficulties we suffered from, and would have in consequence all the injurious effects that quack remedies invariably had of leading people to trust to those remedies rather than to their own exertions, but it would corrupt public life, divide classes, and bring into our country, as it had into so many others, that element of class antipathy, that conception of the poor man that the law was not fair as between the rich and the poor, but was an organised system by which those who could pull the strings were enabled to bring more wealth into their own pockets and more resources to indulge their luxury. It was because he thought this a matter of the very gravest importance that he was not able, as he would naturally wish, to assent to the suggestion which fell from the Treasury bench and take no part in the discussion.

He could not help feeling they had reached a point of no ordinary interest in the progress of this discussion. This was not an academic question. It probably would have been a question which could have been so treated had the Prime Minister and his colleagues been allowed to manage it in their own way. But they had not been allowed to do so. Nearly two years ago the Tariff Reform League, led by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, took the matter out of the hands of the Prime Minister and his colleagues, managed the agitation in their own way, and made it perfectly clear that they regarded the present as the period of decision; they made it clear in many ways, but especially by attacks upon the seats of those who were not able to agree with them. Those attacks began about fifteen months ago, and from that moment it became clear, from the methods of advocacy adopted, that now was the time for decision, that it was not an educational campaign to instruct the public mind on the fiscal question, but a deliberate design first to capture the Conservative Party, to pack it, and then, when the whole process of deliberation and decision had been done beforehand, to submit, for the sake of constitutional form, a tariff to the House of Commons, which would be pledged to the last item to pass it *verbatim et literatim*. That was the design of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Birmingham and the Tariff Reform League, and it was the miscarriage of that design they were celebrating that night. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Birmingham was absent from a cause with which they all sympathised, and he made no comment on it except to express regret and to hope that he would soon be with them again. But there were other members of his Party, only less distinguished, who might some of them have been present. He missed the spacious form of his right hon. friend the Member for Sleaford.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: He has a meeting in his constituency.

Lord HUGH CECIL regretted that his right hon. friend's sense of public duty led him to consider that meeting more important than the maintenance of his opinion in the House of Commons. But other advocates of the cause were absent or silent on the present occasion, and in order that there might be no mistake about the motive of their absence they held a meeting and decided that they should treat the debate "with contempt."

How odd that was for if they had been in a majority instead of a minority they would have felt no occasion for increasing that not very amiable quality of contempt; they would have regarded it as an opportunity to save a decaying Empire and dying industries, to rally to the flag of Imperialism at the rate of 2s. a quarter on wheat, and to vindicate once again the principle of legitimate protection of industries which would add to the burdens of no class, bring a vast revenue to the State, while excluding from competition all goods upon which it was proposed to levy that revenue. He thought that members of the Tariff Reform League, or the Members who represented the views of the league in this House, might have shown this diffidence of public and Parliamentary action a little sooner, and might even now show it more consistently and completely. He carried his mind back to eighteen months ago, when the Cabinet was broken up because of disagreement on the subject. A little more temperateness of management and a little more disposition to put off this question to a calmer hour, and there might have been no Ministerial crisis and none of the dislocation in the Party which followed.

Twelve months ago there was another meeting of Members of the league, and very different was their mood. Then they sent an imperious message to the Treasury Bench requiring that a certain Amendment put down at the wish and with the concurrence of Government should not be proceeded with. *Sic volo, sic jubeo, stat pro ratione voluntas*, said the right hon. Member for Sleaford in those days, and fortunately he had not a meeting in his constituency on that occasion. He gave his orders, and in those days it was for the Tariff Reform League to give orders, and Unionist free-traders were accused of disloyalty to the Government. Now things were changed. For some time past the retreat from Moscow had been going on. That night witnessed the passage of the Beresina, and his hon. and gallant friend figured, as he was able to do, in the character of Marshal Ney. But those retreating forces, so diffident of argument in Parliament, were continuing their attacks on their free-trade colleagues, uniting as it seemed in a very unusual manner a singular intolerance of disagreement of opinion with a singular lack of courage in maintaining their own opinions. They had a bigotry with all the narrowness and vindictiveness, but none of the courage generally associated with that quality. He confessed that he thought it was a little hard that opinions should be judged to be so sacred as to justify the driving out of Members of Parliament and should not be sufficiently sacred to be defended on the floor of the House of Commons. There was no doubt that hon. Members would say, if one could get them in a candid moment, that they believed what they were doing was good tactics. He thought this view showed that these hon. Members understood tactics as little as they understood economics. Of course, it was not in the power of any system of tactics to make those in a small minority exert the influence that belonged to a majority. On other questions in this House he had been in a very small minority. On Church and education questions it had been his fortune repeatedly to divide with very small parties indeed; but he was quite sure that if the school of opinion to which he belonged had exerted any influence at all it was because they did not shrink from maintaining their own opinions and because they were not so absorbed by a sense of their own dignity and such an exaggerated idea of self-respect that they were afraid of being found in a small minority in the division lobby. Did tariff reformers really suppose that after to-night they were going to get the public in the constituencies outside to take them very seriously? Did they suppose that the electorate was going to rally to those who would not rally to their own cause? Did they suppose that the example of flight as set by their leaders was to be a source of courage and heroism in the rank and file? No, the House had seen to-night a great landmark in the history of this controversy. They now knew how hollow were those pretences about a dying Empire and the dying industries of which he had spoken. The fidelity of Canada—this was part of one scheme; it all fitted together—which needed to be shored up, a dying industry in every town—for the right hon. Member for West Birmingham wherever he went always found something amiss—all these things were now left to "get on with their dying." After to-night tariff reform would pass from being a heresy into being a laughing-stock. The country was not dying; its industries were not dying; it held its own throughout the world, and it flourished. The only thing that was dying was the protectionist movement, which had been revived and galvanised into life by the genius of one individual and by a system of advertisement and organisation which he thought had been without a parallel in the history of political agitation. The moment they had succeeded in bringing the matter to a test—and it had taken a long time—the moment they had got the Government to leave the House to act as it pleased they were not even to be put to the trouble of fighting it out; the tariff reformers had fled at the very sound of their opponents' guns.

It was true that the Tariff Reform League might succeed in driving three, four, six, or twenty of those with whom they disagreed out of Parliament; but that prospect did not depress him at the moment. The loss of Parliamentary seats was one of the ordinary incidents in political controversy, and it mattered little. But that evening's experience was, he thought, almost unique. During the last eighteen months they had had a contest within the Unionist Party on this great issue. He was so grateful to the Government for what they had done on the present occasion that he did not wish to say a word of recrimination, but certainly in the earlier stages of the controversy the Government did not assume that proper attitude of neutrality which they had now adopted. There had been so to speak a cold wind in that quarter; only a small number of Members who sat on the Government side had felt themselves able to take an active part in the controversy; some of their friends had crossed the floor and now supported the other side; others had withdrawn on other grounds. But some supporters of the Government had persisted and now they had prevailed. Sooner than he had any reason to anticipate, they had made it clear that the Conservative Party was not a protectionist Party and that it had not been captured by the Tariff Reform League; that it was, as it always had been, a Party indulgent and comprehensive, allowing all sorts of varieties of opinion, and was in its settled policy still an adherent to the principle of free trade. He was glad that this was so. He hoped that his hon. friends would join in freeing the Party as soon as possible from the evil reputation which the action of the Tariff Reform League had brought upon it. They had gone a long way on the road that evening, and he looked forward to better things still in the future. He looked forward to the day when the Party of which they were so proud would again enjoy that position which two years ago it enjoyed of being the most trusted and respected Party in the State. He looked forward to the building up of that edifice which in a reckless moment had been cast to the ground, and to the storing again of that treasure which, with a mad expenditure, had been cast into the sea. If it were so, what did it matter if a few of them here and there suffered abuse or exclusion from Parliament? They had contended for a cause which they were certain was the cause of the good of the Empire, and to-day they had before them the promise of an early and a certain victory.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) pointed out that the terms of the Resolution were the *ipsissima verba* of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, and, therefore, when the Prime Minister complained of it as being embarrassing, he could only condole with the right hon. Gentleman in having so embarrassing an ally as the late Colonial Secretary. What were the circumstances? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had gone round the country declaring that British trade was in a most parlous state, that sugar and silk had gone, that wool and iron were threatened, and that cotton would go, but that fortunately he and his friends had found a cure. As to that cure there was a difference of opinion, the hon. Member for Central Sheffield believing that it would remove the difficulties connected with British trade, while others, who were manufacturers themselves, were old-fashioned enough to believe that a tariff would simply ruin the home trade. But whatever their differences of opinion as to the cure, all were agreed as to the importance of the question. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had said—

> "What is at stake is the welfare of the masses of the population. . . . To them it is a question of life and death."

This was a question of life and death, but where was the Member for West Birmingham? They were sorry to hear that he was laid aside by illness. It must indeed be a calamity to be laid aside on so important an occasion. But the right hon. Gentleman seemed to have deserted the House of Commons. Where was he a fortnight ago, when the hon. Member for Oldham moved his Resolution? Somebody was in his place, wearing his clothes, and having all his external appearance, but it was a mere attentuated form. The real Member for West Birmingham was the missionary of Empire, the saviour of British trade, the great magnetic personality, the man who took nothing lying down; whereas he who was present a fortnight ago was an attenuated John Chilcote, with shattered nerves and ruined constitution, who cringed under the narcotics administered by the Prime Minister. To-night tariff reformers had been freed from their bonds; for the first time they were allowed to exercise liberty of conscience, and what were they going to do? They were going to run away! Was there ever so strange a change within two short years? Less than two years ago, at a great dinner-party at the Hotel Cecil, 122 Members of Parliament swore fealty to the cause of tariff reform. Where was that Party now? There was only one survivor—the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Central Sheffield. The hon. and gallant Member was in a strange position. For many years he occupied all alone the desert island of protection. But one day he was invaded by an army of statesmen and important personages, led by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. For two years they had hustled him in his own place, but this morning he had awakened to find they were all gone, and that he was again in sole possession of his desert island. Where were these hon. Gentlemen? Where was the hon. Member for Glasgow who so brilliantly represented the Board of Trade? As recently as Friday last, speaking in the country, he devoted the whole of his speech to tariff reform, and declared that in the iron trade alone £6,000,000 of wages had been lost to the workmen of this country. To-night it was only an academic question! Where was the Colonial Secretary, who they all knew was under the magnetic influence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham? Only two days ago he declared that that "magnetic influence" had worked a miracle, in that it had actually persuaded the magnates of the Transvaal to accept £35,000,000 of the money of this country without giving anything in return.

They all expected that the Prime Minister upon a question of life or death like this would have told the House his views. The right hon. Gentleman said that 1,100 columns of *Hansard* had been spoken upon the fiscal question, but he challenged the Prime Minister's followers to show him a single sentence which would give the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman upon the policy of the Member for West Birmingham. Why should the Prime Minister hide his opinion? Why did he refuse to tell them his opinion upon a matter of life or death? They all knew the reason why. It was because the right hon. Gentleman knew to express his opinion upon that question would be a matter of life or death with the Government. The Prime Minister lived by concealment. His relations with his followers were like those of Cupid to Psyche. Cupid was condemned to woo Psyche in the dark. He lived in constant trepidation lest one night she should strike a match and see his real features. The Prime Minister had done all he could to make the darkness thick. He had shut the shutters of the closure, and drawn the curtains of the previous question. But to-night the fatal moment had come; the match was struck, and like Cupid he had run away. The action he had taken upon this Resolution was more than a defeat for the tariff reformers, it was a rout, and they could never hold up their heads again.

MR. SPEAKER was proceeding to put the Question from the Chair when

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham), seated and wearing his hat, and speaking amid cries of "Order" from the Opposition, said,—May I ask, Sir, whether, as the "Noes" appear to be in a very small minority, in order to save the House the trouble of a division, those who object to the Motion might not be called on to rise in their places?

*MR. SPEAKER: I am not in a position to form an opinion as to the numbers, I cannot adopt that suggestion.

Question put.

The House divided: Ayes, 254; Noes, 2. (Division List, No. 79.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Beaumont, Wentworth, C. B.
Beckett, Ernest William
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hon. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, George M. (Edinburgh)
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.

Cawley, Frederick
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellice, Capt E C (S. Andrw's Bghs)
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir Francis H. Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.

Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E. (Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis, J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hain, Edward
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hamilton, Rt Hn. Lord G (Midd'x
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hatch, Ernest Frederick Geo.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Hobhouse, C. E. H (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)

Mr. Crombie.

Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Malcolm, Ian
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John (Montrose)
Morrison, James Archibald
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Mount, William Arthur
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckett, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H. C. (North'mb Tyneside
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore, C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene, Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
Welby, Sir Charles G. E (Notts.)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York. E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond, (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. William M'Arthur.

NOES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Levy and Mr. Charles Allen.

VIVISECTION.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) in moving the Motion which stood in his name, said the reason he wished to advance for exempting dogs from operations for the purpose of vivisection was that dogs, of all animals, were the most sensitive, and felt pain in a more acute manner than any other animals. It seemed a little ungrateful that they should select for this purpose the animal which was, without doubt their best friend, and inflict upon it the most cruel operations that could possibly be performed. If it was necessary to perform these operations in the interests of science, for goodness sake let them take some other animal which was not so sensitive to pain. The most ardent advocate of vivisection admitted that the dog was an animal which was very sensitive, and trusted in human nature. He felt very keenly upon this question. As he had been fortunate enough to get an opportunity of ventilating his views he would like to divide the House upon his Motion, and he appealed to hon. Members on both sides of the House to support him. He begged to move.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) seconded.

Motion made and Question proposed—"That, in the opinion of this House, no operations for the purposes of Vivisection should be performed on dogs."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.) thought this Resolution ought not to pass without a word or two from him. When the hon. Baronet the Member for Peckham spoke the result was generally a majority upon the side he represented. He should be very sorry if upon an occasion like this, after such a brief discussion, the House came to a decision upon a matter of so much importance. He thought the House would agree with him that a question like this, which had been the subject of inquiry for many years, and which had been legislated upon, should not be affected by a chance vote in the House of Commons after such a brief discussion. With reference to what had been said about dogs and their qualities no one in the House would deny the truth of those statements. Those who had kept dogs knew that in many of their qualities they surpassed human beings. [Cries of "Divide, divide."]

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put; but Mr. SPEAKER withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question:—

Sir Frederick Banbury.

MR. COCHRANE said what he was endeavouring to point out to the House was that in regard to his sympathy for dogs he entirely agreed with the hon. Baronet who had moved this Resolution. There were, however, many other questions involved. They had got to consider much wider interests.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: You are talking against time.

MR. COCHRANE said that, although there was only a few moments remaining for debate, he could not allow this Motion to pass without saying a few words upon it. Legislation had already been passed upon this subject——

And, it being midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington) said it had been arranged that to-morrow, on Report of Supply, they would take first the Army Supplementary Vote (Somaliland), and then Votes A and 1 of the Navy, and Reports of Civil Service Supplementary Estimates.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax): May I ask the right hon Baronet if he has any information to give to the House with respect to the health of the Tariff Reform League.

Adjourned at four minutes after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 23rd March, 1905.

EARL OF KENMARE.

Petition of Valentine Charles Earl of Kenmare, in the Peerage of Ireland, claiming a right to vote at the election of Representative Peers for Ireland; read, and referred to the Lord Chancellor to consider and report thereupon to the House.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Naval Works (Portsmouth Barracks Site) Bill [H.L.], now Holy Trinity Portsea Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Workington Harbour and Dock Bill [H.L.]. The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 27th of February last and the 13th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

Commercial Union Assurance Bill [H.L.]. The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 28th of February last and the 13th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

Hessle Gas Bill [H.L.]. The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 24th of February last and the 13th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company Bill [H.L.]; East London and Lower Thames Electric Power Bill [H.L.]; Charing Cross and Strand Electricity Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.]; City of London Electric Lighting Company Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Acton District) Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Electric Supply Company (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.]; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill [H.L.]; Central Electric Supply Bill [H.L.]; County of London Electric Supply Company Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee not to sit again till Monday next.

Truro Water Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 27th of February last and 7th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

Leeds and Liverpool Canal Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Select Committee, That the Committee had not proceeded with the consideration of the Bill, the opposition thereto having been withdrawn; read, and ordered to lie on the Table. The orders made on the 24th of February last and 7th instant discharged, and Bill committed for Tuesday next.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC BILLS.

Return respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to Order of February 16th last), and to be printed. (No. 34.)

NORTH SEA INCIDENT.

Reports thereon by the Commissioners appointed by the Board of Trade, with covering Memorandum by Sir Francis Hopwood, K.C.B., C.M.G., Permanent Secretary to the Board of Trade.

NATIONAL GALLERY (SCOTLAND).

Eleventh Annual Report to the Secretary for Scotland by the Commissioners and trustees of the Board of Manufactures in Scotland, for the year ended September 30th, 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NATIONAL DEBT ANNUITIES.

Account of the gross amount of all bank annuities, and any annuities for terms of years, transferred, and of all sums of money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt,

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

and the gross amount of annuities for lives and for terms of years which have been granted for the same, and contracts for payments on death which have been made within the year ended January 5th, 1905. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILLS.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT (1894) AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, with respect to the carriage of deck-loads in the winter time. Was presented by the Lord Muskerry; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 35.)

PATENTS, DESIGNS, AND TRADE MARKS (REGISTRATION OF PATENT AGENTS) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law relating to patent agents. Was presented by the Lord Coleridge; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 36.)

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.].

Moved, That the following Lords be named of the Select Committee:—

D. Northumberland.
E. Derby.
E. Stanhope.
V. Gordon (*E. Aberdeen*).
L. Bishop of Rochester.
L. Belper.
L. Sandhurst.
L. Avebury.—(*Lord Avebury*).

*THE EARL OF WEMYSS: My Lords, I do not rise for the purpose of entering any objection to the Motion of my noble friend. On the contrary, I think the House has done wisely in sending this very important question to a Select Committee, and I hope the Committee will not take a narrow Sabbatarian view of it but will look at it in a broad sense. It is all very well for my noble friend to bring in Bills for the purpose of protecting shopkeepers and shop assistants, but there is a third party to be considered—namely, those who trade with the shops and thereby keep them going. I do not think it is possible to exaggerate the great inconvenience which would be caused to the mass of the working classes if Sunday trading were put a stop to. These people work hard all the week, and on Saturday afternoon they like a holiday. They probably go to see athletes struggling in the mud playing football with their heads, or some other amusement of that sort, and on Sunday morning they have a good lie in bed, get up and see about their trading.

I should like to point out to your Lordships the extent to which Sunday trading is carried on. I have in my hand a paper which every one of your Lordships no doubt possesses, issued by those who are promoting my noble friend's Bill, and I find stated in it as a reason for stopping Sunday trading the fact that, excluding public-houses and the barrow trade, which is greater even than the shop trade, there are in Manchester and Sheffield 8,000 shops open on Sunday; in Liverpool, 4,700; Glasgow, 3,048; Leeds, 2,039; Bristol, 1,035; Dundee, 567; Bolton, 555; Aberdeen, 457; Swansea, 282; Newport, 195; Lee, 194; Maidstone, 150; Hull, 75; and Darlington 50. Now, my Lords, if you shut these shops on Sunday imagine the inconvenience you cause to the working classes, to meet whose requirements the shops are now kept open on that day.

I speak on this subject with knowledge. When a similar Bill was before us two years ago I was advised to visit Petticoat Lane—it is now, I believe, called Middlesex Street, and is on the border of the City—where I could see what Sunday trading in London really was. I went there and found it to be a very narrow street in which two carriages could hardly pass. The whole of the shops were open, and along the gutter on each side were hand barrows, and at nearly every third barrow there was an auction going on. On a fete day or illumination night a busy thoroughfare could not be more crowded than was Petticoat Lane. Clothing, food, everything was to be got there, and the working people of that part of the Metropolis were busy making purchases from 10 o'clock till 12 midday. My noble friend proposes in this Bill that no shop shall be allowed to remain open after 9 a.m. Why, the working classes are not out of bed at that hour, and I hold that it would be a monstrous thing to inconvenience the great mass of people by passing this Bill into law. I asked my noble friend Lord Avebury if he had ever been to Petticoat Lane and seen the Sunday trading there, and he replied that he had not, and I replied that without such knowledge he had no right to legislate. I say, further, that your Lordships ought not to legislate on this subject without actual inspection of this Sunday trading. I am told that what obtains at Petticoat Lane also obtains at dozens of other places in London, and I hope my noble friend and the other members of the Select Committee, before inquiring into the subject, will pay a visit to Petticoat Lane, for I maintain that no man has a right to legislate upon this subject without better knowledge than my noble friend appears to possess.

*LORD AVEBURY: My Lords, my noble friend has accused me of not knowing what goes on in Petticoat Lane on Sundays. I assure him I know quite well; and if I had not known before the other day, my noble friend gave me a few days ago so graphic a description that it was quite as instructive as a visit. I hope your Lordships will some of you go there as he suggests, for I believe the spectacle will leave no doubt as to the need for our Bill. It is just the facts mentioned by my noble friend which induced shopkeepers to urge me to bring forward this Bill. I had hoped when the Early Closing Bill was passed that the labours of thirty years were over, but the shopkeepers throughout the country brought such pressure on me to deal with the great evil of Sunday trading that I could not resist introducing this Bill. The noble Earl read out a list of the number of shops open on Sunday in our large towns. As those of your Lordships who were present on the occasion of the Second Reading will remember, the figures the noble Earl quoted were precisely those I brought forward in support of some such Bill as this. The noble Earl states that the working classes work all the week, and amuse themselves on Saturday afternoon by going to football and other matches, putting off their shopping until Sunday. But what about the shopkeepers and shop assistants? They do not get a holiday on Saturday. Many of the shops are open until past midnight on Saturday, and the shopkeepers and assistants have to begin work again on the Sunday.

The shopkeeping community have done all they can to ascertain the views of the working classes. The London Trades Council, which represents the working classes of this great Metropolis, and which, on a question affecting their comfort and convenience, may be regarded as knowing their views, have unanimously passed a resolution in favour of shutting up shops on one day in the week. Similar resolutions have been passed by the Irish Trades Council, and also, I understand, by the Scottish Trades Council, and the trades councils in many of our large towns. Perhaps the strongest case of all is the case of Hull. The corporation of Hull have done all they possibly could to act under the present law, and have reduced to a comparatively small number the shops opening on Sunday. The working men of Hull, therefore, know perfectly well what would be the result of the operation of such a Bill as this, and they have unanimously passed a resolution supporting this Bill and expressing the hope that it will be passed into law. My noble friend has expressed a desire that we shall not discuss this question in the Select Committee in a narrow Sabbatarian spirit. It is not for me to speak for a Committee which is not yet appointed, but I feel satisfied that the noble Earl need have no apprehension on the point. As I have said, the shopkeepers, while not ignoring the religious aspect of the problem, primarily approach the question from the point of view of the comfort, happiness, and health of themselves and their families, and of the assistants, for whose welfare they are responsible, and it is in that spirit that they ask your Lordships to pass this Bill.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Committee to appoint their own Chairman.

House adjourned at a quarter before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 23rd March, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means from this Evening's Sitting.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz.:—London Southern Tramways Bill; Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill. As amended, considered: to be read the third time.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. Reported, without Amendment [Provisional Order confirmed]; Report to lie upon the Table.

Bill to be read the third time To-morrow.

Epping Gas Bill; Loughborough Corporation Bill; Seaham Gas Bill; Wrexham Gas Bill; Great Eastern Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Clay Cross Railway (Abandonment) Bill; Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment) Bill. Reported, without Amendment; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Bill; Norwich Union Life Insurance Society Bill; Chelsea Electricity Supply Bill; South Suburban Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table.

Sunderland and South Shields Water Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL.

Petition from Brighton, for establishment; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Bathgate; and Crail; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (ARMY VOTES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 21st March, 1905, under the Appropriation Act, 1904, authorising the temporary application of surpluses on certain Army Votes for the year 1904–5 to defray excesses on other Army Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 94.]

NATIONAL DEBT ANNUITIES.

Account presented, of the Gross Amount of all Bank Annuities and any Annuities for terms of years transferred, and of all Sums of Money paid to the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and the Gross Amount of Annuities for Lives and for terms of years, etc., granted within the year ended 5th January, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 95.]

FLEETS (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 6th March; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 96.]

PETTY SESSIONS CLERKS (IRELAND) (SALARIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 11th August, 1904; *Mr. Ffrench*]; to lie upon the Table.

TURKEY (No. 1, 1905).

Copy presented, of Decree relating to the Ottoman Public Debt, issued 1st (14th) September, 1903, as an Annex to the Decree of 28 Mouharrem 1299 (8th (20th) December, 1887) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Recruiting Fees Paid to Customs Officers.

Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the names of the ports in the United Kingdom where bringing money or recruiting fees were paid (in accordance with the recommendations of the Naval Reserves Committee and the instructions in the circular issued by the Registrar-General of Shipping and Seamen, December 24th, 1903, to registrars of Royal Naval Reserve) to officers of Customs other than those acting as registrars who were performing mercantile marine duties, and the amount of money so paid in each port for duties performed inside and outside of office hours respectively; and will he explain why this money had to be refunded irrespective of the hour in which it was earned, according to the General Order (Customs) 8, 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Victor Cavendish.*)

Ports.	Amount of recruiting fees paid for duties performed.	
	Inside office hours.	Outside office hours.
	s. d.	s. d.
Colchester	2 6	—
Yarmouth	5 0	—
Drogheda	—	15 0
Fraserburgh	—	5 0
Larne (Port of Belfast)	—	5 0
Lynn	—	5 0
Wexford	—	25 0

The amounts shown above were directed to be refunded on the ground that the receipt of those fees was inconsistent with the general rules of the Customs Department. It is held that the official pay of an officer covers work performed during official hours for other Government Departments, and arrangements are in operation whereby such work performed outside official hours is paid for at the regular overtime rates.

from Cork city arriving in Buttevant about 5 p.m. are not delivered in Liscarrol until 9 o'clock a.m. next day, and that letters from Dublin and Great Britain arriving in Buttevant about 10.30 a.m. are not delivered until 9 o'clock next day, he will, in view of the importance of this district and the delay caused by present arrangement, arrange for a second mail delivery each day in Liscarrol and Churchtown.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I will have inquiry made on the subject, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Payment for Sunday Duty in the Post Office.

MR. JAMES O'CONNOR (Wicklow, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if the regulation that no duty performed by an officer of the Post Office shall be reckoned at less than one hour, and paid for accordingly, is also applicable to attendances on Sunday.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) Officers to whom the regulation applies as regards weekday duty are entitled to the same concession for Sunday duty.

Seamen Killed and Drowned on British Ships—Men Killed in Factories.

MR. JOHNSON (Gateshead): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state the number of seamen killed and drowned on British ships from the beginning of the year 1896 till the end of the year 1904; the number of men employed in the shipping industry; the number of men killed in the factories and workshops in the same period; and the number of men employed in factories and workshops.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The figures asked for by the hon. Member are given, as regards seamen, in Parliamentary Paper [Cd. 2232] for the years 1896 to 1903. The figures for 1904 are not yet complete, but the lives reported to present date as having been lost are 990, namely, 417 by wrecks and casualties, 348 by drowning other than by wrecks and casualties, and 225 by accident other than drowning, wreck, or casualty. The number of men employed in 1904 has not yet been ascertained. The number of males killed in factories and workshops during the years 1896 to 1904 was 7,944. The number of males employed in factories and workshops has not been ascertained since 1897, when it was 2,975,394.

Compensation for Accidents to Seamen—Case of A. Davies.

MR. BROADHURST (Leicester): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the explosion which occurred on board the British steamship "Gwendoline," in the month of April, 1904, which resulted in a seaman named Alfred Davies receiving injuries which necessitated his remaining for fifty-seven days in hospital at Gibraltar and his inability to do any work since the accident; whether he is aware that Davies was landed in London destitute and sent to Dublin at the expense of the Shipwrecked Mariners' Society, and that he is now living in Dublin on the charity of friends; and whether any inquiry was held into the cause of the explosion referred to.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The attention of the Board of Trade has been called to the case to which the hon. Member refers. No formal inquiry has been held, but it appears from a report made by the captain of the port at Gibraltar in April last, and from an entry in the official log, that the explosion was caused by the boatswain striking a match in the lazarette of a vessel laden with coal. The Board of Trade have no reason to believe that the vessel was not loaded in accordance with the regulations, but on this point further inquiry will be made upon her next return to the United Kingdom.

Petrol Working of Rocket Wagons.

MR. SOARES: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the circumstances under which twenty-three lives were lost owing to the wreck of the ship "Khyber" off Land's End on the 15th instant, and to the fact that horses had to be fetched for the rocket apparatus from a distance of three-quarters of a mile; and whether he will inquire as to the advisability of working rocket wagons by petrol or some other similar power in places which are suitably situated for the purpose, and in which horses are difficult to obtain.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Board of Trade have ordered a formal inquiry to be held into the circumstances attending the recent wreck of the "Khyber," and the points mentioned by the hon. Member shall receive careful consideration.

Report of Engineering Experts on Osborne College Training.

Mr. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty intend to publish the Report of the engineering experts on the Osborne College training, to which reference has recently been made in official Papers.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) It is not proposed to publish the Report in question, but I should be glad to show it to the hon. Member if he desires to see it.

Manufacture of Rifles and Bayonets—Dismissals at Enfield Factory.

Colonel BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office for whom is the extra £78,000 worth of rifles and bayonets to be made, and where will their cost be shown on the Estimates; and whether he will state how many men belonging to the inspection department at Enfield are under notice of dismissal beyond the 403 engaged in the manufacturing department.

(*Answered by Mr. Bromley Davenport.*) The difference between the amount stated yesterday † in reply to the hon. and gallant Member as available for rifles and bayonets and the amount shown in Estimates is due to supply of rifles and bayonets to India, and will not be shown in Estimates. Seventy-one men belonging to the inspection department at Enfield are under notice of dismissal, besides the 403 men in the factory.

Death of a Boy through Beating in Assam.

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to paragraph 195 of the recent Report on the Province of Assam, in which it is stated that a coolie boy died from the effects of a beating believed to have been inflicted by some chaukidars, to whom he had been handed over in order that he should be made to confess where certain property, which he was suspected of having stolen, was concealed; and whether any steps have been taken by the local administration of Assam or by the Government of India with reference to the decision of the High Court, under which trifling fines were inflicted on the manager and assistant manager of the estate, with a view to revise the punishment inflicted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I have noticed the paragraph referred to in the Question. The case was not tried in the High Court, but in the Sessions Court for the Assam Valley, by the Judge with the assistance of a jury. I have no official information as to the facts, but will make inquiries.

Indian Gold Reserve.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state in what security the gold reserve of India is invested; and whether, at the present quotations, such investment shows a loss; and, if so, to what extent.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) I presume that by "the gold reserve of India" is meant the special gold reserve fund to which the net profit on the coinage of rupees is transferred. The fund is invested in the following securities; Consols, National War Loan, Local Loans Stock, Transvaal Government 3 per cent. Guaranteed Stock, and Treasury Bills. The value of these securities at the present market price is in excess of the amount for which they were purchased.

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† See page 780.

Indian Factories engaged in the Manufacture of War Material—Europeans and Natives Employed—Amount supplied by Great Britain.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state how many factories in India are at present engaged in the manufacture of war material, and the number of Europeans and natives respectively employed in these factories; and will he state the value of the war material supplied last year to the Indian Army by the factories of India and by this country respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) There are at present eleven factories in India engaged in the manufacture of war material. I am unable to state the number of Europeans and natives employed in these factories, or the value of the war material supplied to the Indian Army by the factories of India. The value of that supplied from this country was approximately £875,000, exclusive of clothing to the value of £227,652 5s. 8d.

Property of Evicted Ryots put up for Auction in the Madras Presidency.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India if he will state how many acres of land, the property of evicted ryots, have been put up for auction by Government in the Madras Presidency in default of payment of land revenue during the five years ending the 30th June, 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Land Revenue Report for 1903–4 has not reached me. The sales of land during the five years ending 1902–3 were as under:—1898–9, 60,806 acres; 1899–1900, 52,852 acres; 1900–1, 61,563 acres; 1901–2, 45,712 acres; 1902–3, 30,583 acres.

Supply of Salt by the Government to Native States in India.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India supplies salt free of duty to all the native States of India; and, if so, will he say whether the Government imposes any restrictions as to the profit which the native States may secure on re-sale of the salt to the public.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. The right is enjoyed by certain States only, and is in virtue of special agreements. With regard to restrictions on re-sale, the hon. Member is referred to the information given in answer to a Question put by him on December 16th,† 1902. The conditions vary in different cases.

Sugar from Irish-Grown Beet.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the importations of foreign sugar into Dublin and other Irish ports last year, he will impress on the Department of Agriculture the advisability of experimenting on a large and practical scale to try the feasibility of producing sugar from Irish beet upon a paying basis, seeing that the ratio of saccharine matter in Irish beet exceeds that of German beet, and also that a failure of the beet-sugar operations took place in Germany last year owing to the dry season.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Department are satisfied that beet could not be made as remunerative a crop as other root crops now grown in Ireland. They are, therefore, not prepared to carry out an experiment of the nature suggested, which would involve, as a preliminary, the erection and equipment of a factory at a cost of about £60,000, exclusive of working capital. The Department have recently prepared a pamphlet setting forth the reasons why the production of beet sugar would not be profitable in Ireland. I have sent a copy of this pamphlet to the hon. Member.

Irish Valuation—Suggested Introduction of Scotch System.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in Scotland the local authorities valuation assessment committees carry on the work of valuation without expense to the ratepayers and give satisfaction to those concerned; whether he can state how many thousand pounds per annum it costs to maintain the valuation staff in Ireland, which is not subject to local control or co-operation from elected representatives; and whether, seeing this method has not given general satisfaction, the Government will consider the advisability of introducing the Scotch system into Ireland.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxvi., 1331.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I cannot admit that the work of valuation in Scotland is carried out without expense to the ratepayers. I believe the contrary is the fact, but I am not in a position to compare the cost of valuation in the two countries. The total cost of the Valuation Department in Ireland is about £24,000, about £8,000 of which is paid by the local authorities. The system is so efficient and satisfactory that appeals against the decision of the Commissioner are lodged in only about one-sixth per cent. of the cases ruled by him. The reply to the last query is in the negative.

Refusal of Gun Licences in Ireland—Cases of Mr. J. Michael and Mr. P. Raffery.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why Mr. James Michael, of Freem, Turlough Park, Castlebar, county Mayo, was refused a gun licence which he required for the protection of his crops from vermin.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The question of the issue of an arms licence is one for the consideration of the resident magistrate, who is the licensing officer of the district. It would be contrary to the invariable practice to state the reasons which actuated the licensing officer in declining, in the exercise of his discretion, to grant a licence in any particular case.

Mr. DUFFY (Galway, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Patrick Raffery, of Rathreddy, Loughrea, made application to carry and use, on his own lands, a gun for the destruction of vermin; and whether, seeing that he holds in or about twenty-five Irish acres, ten of which are under tillage, and is in sole charge of the management of the farm by reason of the age and infirmity of his father, he will cause instructions to be given to accede to his application.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The licence was refused by the licensing officer, who is the resident magistrate of the district, in the exercise of the discretion vested in him. The case is not one which calls for my interference.

Appointment of Manager of Lislea No. 1 National School.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the inquiry in September, 1903, when the former clerical manager of the Lislea No. 1 National School (county Armagh), tendered his resignation, the chief inspector stated that he considered the lessee of the school had a right to be appointed as manager; will he say whether the name of the lessee was submitted to the Commissioners; and, if so, what objection have the Commissioners to his appointment; and whether, in view of the fact that there is no probability of a successor to the former clerical manager being appointed to the charge of the congregation with which the school is connected, and that the present temporary manager resides twenty miles distant and cannot exercise effective oversight of the school, the National Commissioners are prepared to consider a further memorial from the parents resident in the district in reference to this matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) It transpired at the inquiry mentioned that there was much difference of opinion locally as to the most fitting appointment to be made. Pending the appointment of a new minister of Drumhillery Church, the chief inspector recommended the appointment as temporary manager of the Reverend Mr. Simpson, who appeared to be acceptable to the persons concerned. Mr. Simpson was appointed accordingly. There is no lessee of the school, which is vested in and the property of the Commissioners. The present arrangement as to the managership works satisfactorily.

Lichfield Rifle Range—Staffordshire Battalions and Militia.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War if the rifle range near Lichfield is being used; and, if not, what steps are being taken to make it available.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can give any reason why none of the Staffordshire battalions are quartered at Lichfield, and why none of the Staffordshire Militia battalions are to train there this year.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The 1st North Staffordshire Regiment is going to Aldershot in the ordinary course for training purposes, after having been quartered for the usual two years at Lichfield. It will not be possible to train the four Staffordshire Militia battalions at Lichfield in a satisfactory manner this year. The troops are unable to make full use of the rifle range on account of a certain right of way over a portion of the range which is only closed during certain hours. I am, however, glad to say that negotiations on this matter are progressing satisfactorily.

Army, Militia, and Volunteer Recruits—References as to Character.

Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the nature of references as to character required for men joining the Army, Militia, and Volunteers respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) In the case of candidates for enlistment in the Regulars and Militia, the following questions are put to the person given as a reference:—1. In what capacity have you known————? 2. How long have you known him? 3. What time has elapsed since you last saw him to speak to? 4. What do you know of his character—Is he sober? Honest? Respectable? 5. Has he to your knowledge served in the Army, Navy, Royal Marines, Militia, Imperial Yeomanry, or Volunteers? If so, please state which. 6. Is he married or single? If a widower, state number of children, if any. As regards Volunteers, there is no provision with respect to character.

Reports of Director of Army Contracts.

Sir JOHN COLOMB: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Director of Army Contracts makes any periodic Reports; and if so, to whom, and for what periods; and whether there is any, and if so what, objections to laying them before Parliament.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Annual Reports on Army contracts have always been made and will be continued. The Reports are addressed to the Financial Member of the Council. They have always been treated as confidential documents, and will continue to be so treated.

Establishment and Effective Strength of Regular Infantry.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the present establishment of the Regular Infantry; and what is its effective strength.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The present establishment of the Regular Infantry including the Guards is 146,453, and the strength on the 1st March was 145,234.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Yangtse River—Protection of British Interests.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to withdraw the six British sloops and two British gunboats which have been engaged in patrolling the Yangtse River; and, if so, whether he can state the grounds for this change of policy; and what other methods have been adopted for the protection of the lives and property and the upholding of British interests in the Yangtse region.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The patrol of the Yangtse is now carried out by six river gunboats which are exclusively employed on this service. The other vessels alluded to were not specially allotted for the Yangtse, but simply visited this river occasionally in the ordinary course of cruising, and were neither necessary nor required for patrol purposes.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON: Do I correctly understand that six British gunboats are now patrolling the Yangtse and will continue to be there?

Mr. PRETYMAN: Yes, Sir. They are stationed on the river.

War Office Wastages—Sales of Surplus Suits of Clothes.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): I beg to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office if, seeing that within the last year about 20,000 suits of clothes which had been bought by contract were sold for about 40 per cent. less than they cost, he will state the reason for selling them and the purchase price and sale price.

The FINANCIAL SECRETARY to the WAR OFFICE (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield): These suits of clothes, which were purchased for the purpose of giving to soldiers on discharge and to Boer prisoners, were found surplus to requirements at the end of the South African War. They were accordingly put out to tender and the best offer was accepted. The cost price was 11s. 9d., and the price realised at the sale was 5s. 6d. for 10,000 and 5s. 7½d. for the remaining 10,000.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER: Are they not the same description of clothes that are being served out at present?

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I am not sure whether that is so, but they were surplus.

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): Could they not have been kept in stock until they were wanted?

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: No, Sir.

Aldershot Staff Appointments.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will explain why an officer who is not a graduate of the Staff College has been appointed Brigade Major of Cavalry at Aldershot; will he say what are his special qualifications for this post; and also has the appointment been made with the unanimous approval of the Army Council.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The officer referred to is not a P.S.C. Officer, but he was qualified for the appointment by good service on the staff in the field. He was, in fact, very strongly recommended by General Sir John French. Appointments to the staff are not ordinarily submitted to the Army Council, but are made by the Secretary of State on the recommendation of the Army Councillor concerned.

Captain NORTON: What is the object of putting the country to the immense expense of keeping up the Staff College to prepare officers for the staff if such officers are not to have these appointments?

[No Answer was returned.]

Artillery Armaments.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state how many batteries of artillery which took part in the South African War are still armed with the identical guns they had in that campaign.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: None of the batteries which took part in the war and have since left South Africa are now armed with the identical guns they had during the war. There are nine batteries now in South Africa which took part in the war; these are armed with guns of the same pattern as were used in the war. When worn out the guns are condemned and replaced, and since the war seven serviceable guns have been sent out to replace guns condemned.

Reserve of Guns and Ammunition.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the number of 12-pounder horse artillery guns, and the number of 15-pounder guns now in reserve; also the number of rounds of ammunition per field gun in reserve.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I regret that I am unable to give the hon. Member the information asked for in the Question. It would not tend to the public advantage to disclose the amount of our reserves.

British Garrison in Egypt.

*COLONEL LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the British force in Egypt, which has lately been reduced, is about to be again increased by four companies of infantry.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Yes, Sir. The establishment of the battalions stationed in Egypt is reduced under the Army Estimates for 1905–6, and the four companies are sent to make good the difference in the numbers of the British force caused by this reduction.

*COLONEL LEGGE: Is there no increase in the garrison?

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The number of men is the same.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): Is there not a large increase of expense?

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: No increase at all. It is simply a transfer from the Mediterranean garrisons.

Royal Pay Warrant and Manual of Military Law.

*COLONEL LEGGE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when it is proposed to issue new editions of the Royal Warrant for pay, appointment, promotion, and non-effective pay of the Army, and the Manual of Military Law.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The new edition of the Pay Warrant will be available in May. The Manual of Military Law is under revision, and it is not possible at present to state a probable date for its publication.

South African Jam Contracts.

*COLONEL LEGGE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any of the jam supplied for South Africa in tins containing only twelve ounces of jam instead of one pound was made from stone fruit; and, if so, whether the weight of the stones is included in the weight of the jam.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: Stone fruit jam (*i.e.*, plum and apricot) was accepted among other jams from the Australian Colonies, and, following the usual procedure with home supplies, it was stipulated with the Agents-General that both jams should be free from stones.

AN HON. MEMBER: A case of colonial preference.

Militia Recruiting.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will take steps to allow regiments of Militia which are weak to enlist men in neighbouring large towns outside their districts or counties where recruits could easily be got.

MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The practice of temporarily extending the recruiting area of a unit is already permitted by the regulations, and is adopted when any good result can be obtained. Further, when large towns border on several counties, recruiting officers are allowed to consider such towns common to the several county Militia.

1st North Staffordshire Regiment and Staffordshire Militia Battalions.

MR. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is proposed to remove the 1st North Staffordshire Regiment from Lichfield to Aldershot; if so, whether he can state what are the reasons for making this change in view of the local feeling that the battalion should remain in the county to which it belongs; whether the four Staffordshire Militia battalions are to be sent this year, two to Delamere in Cheshire, and two to Ross in Herefordshire instead of remaining at Lichfield for the annual training; and whether he is aware that considerable expense will be incurred in making these changes.

Mr. BILL (Staffordshire, Leek): At the same time may I ask the Secretary of State for War whether the troops at Whittington Barracks are still unable to make full use of the new Lichfield rifle range owing to the existence of a contiguous right of way; and, if so, what steps are being taken by the War Office to get this right of way stopped.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The 1st North Staffordshire Regiment is going to Aldershot in the ordinary course for training purposes after having been quartered for the usual two years at Lichfield. It will not be possible to train the four Staffordshire Militia Battalions at Lichfield in a satisfactory manner this year. The troops are unable to make full use of the rifle range on account of a certain right of way over a portion of the range which is only closed during certain hours. I am, however, glad to say that negotiations on this matter are progressing satisfactorily.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER: When are the negotiations likely to be concluded?

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I cannot say. I shall be extremely glad if the hon. Member will assist us.

Enfield and Sparkbrook Small Arms Factories.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state, in view of the proposed reduction of the staff at Enfield and Sparkbrook Small Arms Factories, whether there is any intention of discontinuing the manufacture of the new pattern short rifle.

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The proposed reductions in numbers at Enfield and Sparkbrook are in no way connected with the question of the merits of the new short rifle.

Captain NORTON: Can the hon. Gentleman answer the latter part of the Question?

Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: The question of continuing the manufacture of the short rifle for the infantry is not raised by these reductions, as the programme for the year only provided for the supply of rifles for the mounted troops.

Cost of British Troops in India.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight): On behalf of the hon. Member for the Chippenham Division of Wiltshire, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the average cost of transporting a soldier from this country to India and back; and also the extra cost of uniform, and in all other particulars, made necessary by the soldier being stationed in India instead of remaining in this country.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): The average cost of transporting a soldier from this country to India and back is, according to an estimate made in 1901, £18; this estimate is at present under revision. According to figures procured from India in May, 1903, the extra cost of a soldier in India varied at that time, according to the branch of the service to which he belonged, between £4 17s. 11d. for an infantry soldier and £8 12s. 9d. for a field artilleryman.

Major SEELY: Per year or per equipment?

Mr. BRODRICK: Per year.

Barbed Wire Compounds for Coolie Labour.

Mr. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the Frank Smith Diamond Mining Company has erected a barbed wire fence around the whole of its compound, and has covered the whole of the open space in the centre overhead with wire netting; and whether he proposes to take any action to mitigate this form of imprisonment.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington): I understand that the mine referred to is in the Cape Colony, and the matter is therefore under the control of the Government of that self-governing Colony, with whose responsibility I am not able to interfere.

Land Settlement in South Africa.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, having regard to the fact that 1,248 settlers have been allotted 1,935,261 acres of land and have received advances to the extent of £168,246 in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal, will he state the number of settlers actually now in occupation of these land allotments; and can he state the amount of arable cultivation on the 1,935,261 acres.

MR. LYTTELTON: I have no recent information beyond what was given in my reply of March 20th,† but I will make inquiry by next mail.

South African War Jam Contracts.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any communications have been received from Colonial authorities as to the defective weights in the jam supplied for the troops in South Africa; if so, will he state the nature of these communications.

MR. LAMBERT: I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the contracts for the supply of jam in South Africa, placed by the Agents-General with the Colonial authorities, stipulated for net or nominal weights; with what Colonial authorities were these orders placed; the date of these orders; and whether they were placed at the suggestion of the Colonial Office.

MR. LYTTELTON: I am unable to give the hon. Member any information as to the contracts for the supply of jam, as the Colonial Office has had nothing to do with these contracts, and has not engaged in any correspondence in regard to them.

Egyptian State Railways.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state when the Government of Egypt propose to publish the complete Report of Lord Farrer's Commission on Egyptian State Railways.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): We have no information, but inquiry will be made.

Bahr-el-Ghazal.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): On behalf of the hon. Member for North Roscommon, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the lease of a portion of the Bahr-el-Ghazal territory made to the Sovereign of the Congo State is still in existence or whether it has been cancelled; and, if so, when was it cancelled.

EARL PERCY: I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I returned to him on the 16th instant.†

British Supreme Court at Shanghai.

MR. JOSEPH WALTON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, under an Order of Council due to come into effect on the 1st April, the title Chief Justice will be taken away from the Principal Judge of the British Supreme Court at Shanghai; and, if so, whether, in view of the opinion of British residents that this course will be injurious to British prestige, His Majesty's Government will reconsider the question of its retention.

EARL PERCY: I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave to the Member for North St. Pancras on the 16th instant. The adoption of the nomenclature common to all His Majesty's Extra-territorial Courts is not, in the opinion of His Majesty's Government, calculated to be attended with the results apprehended by the hon. Member.

Somaliland—Agreement with the Mullah.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can state in full the arrangements which have been come to with the Somali Mullah; and whether this arrangement will enable a reduction to be made in the garrison now quartered in Somaliland.

EARL PERCY: I am afraid we have no further information on the subject, but we have telegraphed to General Swayne for further details, which have not yet arrived.

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† See page 444.

† See page 177.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: Does the noble Lord mean to say that the Government are under the impression that some treaty arrangement has been come to with the Mullah? Are they not aware how far that goes?

Earl PERCY: I think I have already announced that an arrangement was made with and an agreement was signed by the Mullah with the Italian representative. He also sent a representative to Berbera, who signed peace there with General Swayne.

Linguistic Studies of Metropolitan Police.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will state the number of the members of the Metropolitan Police Force who are now learning or who have learnt Jüdish-Deutsch or other foreign tongues in order to qualify them for the effective discharge of their duties among the alien population in this kingdom.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's): About 100 members of the Metropolitan Police Force are at the present time learning Jüdish-Deutsch or other foreign tongues, and fifty or sixty others have already acquired a certain amount of linguistic knowledge.

Licensing Statistics—Number of Refusals to Renew.

*Mr. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, pending the issue of detailed Returns under the Licensing Act, 1904, Section 7, he can make a summary statement, giving the total number of licensing districts in which any licences have been refused renewal or reported for non-renewal in the general annual licensing meetings just concluded, together with the total number of licences so refused or reported.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I could not comply with this request without calling for a special return from every Licensing Bench in the country; and, as the figures so procured would not give any real indication of the results to be obtained under the Act, I do not feel justified in taking this course. I have under consideration arrangements for showing the operation of the Act during the year so soon as information is available.

Samford Poacher's Conviction.

Mr. GODDARD (Ipswich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of Harry Quantrill, who was sentenced by the Samford magistrates to one month's imprisonment without the option of a fine for night poaching and killing pheasants in close time; and whether, in consideration of this being a first offence, and of Quantrill having hitherto a good character, he will take steps to mitigate the sentence; and whether he will bring in a Bill to reduce the penalties for first offences of this kind.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: My attention has been called to this case. I have made inquiry into the circumstances and have communicated with the magistrates. I regret, however, that after careful consideration I am unable to advise His Majesty to grant any mitigation of the sentence. With regard to the last paragraph of the Question, Section 4 of the Summary Jurisdiction Act, 1879, gives magistrates complete discretion to substitute a fine for imprisonment, or to reduce the amount of the prescribed penalty in any case with which they may have to deal; and no further legislation on the subject appears to me to be necessary.

Mine Inspection in Fifeshire.

Mr. JAMES HOPE (Fife, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether, in view of the increase in coal mining in Fifeshire, he will appoint a resident mine inspector for that county.

The UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.): Very careful consideration has been given to the needs of Fifeshire in the matter of inspection. The whole staff of the East Scotland district, comprising a district inspector and two junior inspectors, is now concentrated at Edinburgh, from which place Fifeshire is easily reached. The advantages of this plan outweigh any that would be gained by stationing one of these inspectors to reside in Fifeshire; and the appointment of an additional inspector would not be justified.

Bill Dealing with the Unemployed.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board when it is proposed to introduce the Bill dealing with the question of the unemployed.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): I am afraid I am not yet in a position to give a date for the introduction of this Bill.

Solway Salmon Fisheries.

MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER (Cumberland, Eskdale): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he proposes to initiate legislation this session on the subject of the Solway Salmon Fisheries.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs): May I at the same time ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether the Government intend to take any steps in regard to the Solway Fisheries which have been the subject of a recent inquiry.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES, Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): As my hon. friends are aware, a Bill to deal with certain questions affecting the Solway Salmon Fisheries was introduced last session, but it was not received with much favour by any of the various authorities and interests concerned. I am afraid that it would not be possible this session to pass any measure which gave rise to serious controversy, but if a spirit of compromise is abroad, I would gladly do anything in my power to effect a settlement. I quite recognise the importance of the questions at issue to the local interests concerned.

MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman introduce a Bill on the lines of the Stafford Howard Commission.

*MR. AILWYN FELLOWES: I sent one of our inspectors to make a report on this matter, but unfortunately he has been ill for some few weeks, and until he is better I cannot give an absolute Answer to the Question.

Alien Immigration Statistics.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state the number of alien immigrants who have come by steerage to the United Kingdom during the last ten years by each of the British steamship lines from the ports of Hamburg, Bremen, Libau, Rotterdam, Antwerp, the Danube ports, Fiume, and the Italian ports, and the fares charged from each of such ports on each of such lines in each of the years ending December, 1895, to December, 1904?

THE SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): I regret that I am not in a position to give this information.

Port of London.

MR. BENN (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether his attention has been drawn to the Consular Report, issued by the Foreign Office, No. 3327, of 1905, relating to the shipping and navigation of Antwerp, in which the increase of prosperity in that port is stated to be coincident with the great efforts which are being continually made by the port authorities to keep pace with the ever-increasing influx of maritime traffic, all modern improvements for convenience in the loading and discharging of vessels having been either carried out or are shortly to be taken in hand; whether the increase of dock accommodation at Antwerp is still proceeding; and whether, having regard to the backward condition of the port of London in respect of all that the port of Antwerp is stated by the British Consul to be in continuous improvement, he will advise His Majesty's Government to assist legislation on the port of London during the present session.

Mr. BONAR LAW: The Government are not prepared to support in their present form either of the Bills dealing with the port of London now before Parliament.

Mr. BENN: Is the Government prepared to introduce any proposals of its own?

Mr. BONAR LAW: Not this session.

British Trawlers under Foreign Flags.

Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General if, in view of the fact that British subjects evade British laws by nominally placing their trawl boats under foreign flags, he will consider what steps should be taken to bring such persons to punishment.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir Robert Finlay, Inverness Burghs): I am sensible of the importance of this question, and if any specific instances are adduced of conduct such as alleged in the Question they will be fully considered.

Regent's Park Inner Circle and Road along the Serpentine—Exclusion of Motor Traffic.

Mr. MALCOLM (Suffolk, Stowmarket): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, why private carriages driven by electricity are denied the right exercised by private carriages drawn by horses of using the inner circle of Regent's Park as a promenade; and why the road along the Serpentine is forbidden to electric carriages although open to other private carriages paying equivalent taxes.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): Private carriages driven by electricity are excluded from the inner circle of Regent's Park under the regulation which closes the road to carriages and cars propelled or drawn by mechanical means. The road along the Serpentine is closed by regulation to all carriages similarly propelled or drawn.

Mr. MALCOLM: May I ask on what principle that preferential treatment is adopted?

Lord BALCARRES: The reason is that there are certain parts of the Royal parks in which it is thought undesirable that these vehicles should be allowed to run.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): It is for the protection of the public.

Pupil Teachers and Vaccination.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that Miss Eames recently gained a London County Council probationary scholarship for training as a pupil teacher at the Girls' Grammar School, Lewisham, and that, after she had been at the school three months, she was informed by the chairman of the Education Committee of the County Council that they would be compelled, under the regulations of the Board of Education, to cancel her scholarship unless she passed a medical examination showing that she had been vaccinated; and, seeing that Miss Eames was not aware that this condition would be imposed at the time she competed for the scholarship, will he consider the expediency of relaxing the rule.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir William Anson, Oxford University): The Board have received no information as to the case referred to in the Question. In the absence of precise information it is impossible for me to make any statement upon the matter.

Johanna Street Council School, Lambeth.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, on the occasion of his visit to the Johanna Street Council School, North Lambeth, he found any children unfit to take advantage of the instruction offered in the school as a result of being hungry and ill-fed; if so, what immediate steps he proposes to take in connection with the condition of such children, if any.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: I cannot say that on the occasion of my visit any children were unfit to receive instruction owing to hunger, though I formed an opinion that, owing to long continued unhealthy conditions of life, some of the children were backward in development and needed a simpler and, in some respects, a different course of instruction. I have every hope that the Report of the Committee now sitting will enable us to decide whether these cases can be dealt with by the action of the Department concurrently with organised voluntary effort.

Underfed School Children—Miss Deverell's Statement.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to the statement of Miss Deverell, sub-inspector under the Board of Education, in evidence before the Physical Deterioration Committee, to the effect that she knew one school where the master stated that the children got most of their meals by meeting workmen's trains and begging scraps from the men; and, if so, what immediate steps he proposes to suggest in order that the needs of these children may be so attended to that they may be in a position to profit by the instruction offered them.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: I have read the evidence to which the hon. Member refers, but I think that he will agree with me that, in so serious a matter, statements made to a schoolmaster, repeated by him to a lady who communicated them to the Physical Deterioration Committee, would hardly furnish an adequate ground for Departmental action. I may add that I have myself been informed by teachers of the practice referred to, and my informants have added that it by no means necessarily follows that the children thus supplied cannot be fed at home.

Dr. MACNAMARA: Seeing that this lady is an official of the Department, has the hon. Gentleman any doubt as to the accuracy of her statement?

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: None whatever.

Yorktown (Surrey) Council School—Character of Religious Instruction.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that in the Yorktown (Surrey) Council School the religious instruction is given by the vicar of the parish and is of a sectarian character; and whether he will intimate to the education authority of the district that such proceedings are not in accordance with the Education Acts, and must be discontinued at once.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: I am afraid that I have no information as to the case referred to by the hon. Member. I will make inquiries from the county council as to whether the Conscience Clause or the Cowper-Temple Clause have been violated.

Departmental Committee on Underfed Children.

Dr. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether, having regard to the fact that the Physical Deterioration Committee was appointed so far back as 2nd September, 1903, and reported in July, 1904, sat for twenty-six days hearing evidence, and examined sixty-eight expert witnesses, he will say what purpose will be served in the appointment of four officials of the Board of Education, and one official of the Local Government Board, to re-cover the main ground investigated by that Committee; and whether, in view of the delay that the appointment of the Committee announced on Monday last will lead to in regard to the problem of the condition of children who are in attendance at school habitually underfed, he will say when, if it is proposed to go on with this last appointed Departmental Committee, its Report may be expected.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: The Physical Deterioration Committee devoted a comparatively small part of its labours to the question of the provision of food for school children, and failed to furnish information on certain facts, a knowledge of which is essential to legislative or administrative action on that subject. The Committee which is now sitting will provide a more precise knowledge of these facts; and will report with the least possible delay.

Meals for Underfed Children—Scottish Royal Commission's Recommendation.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether his attention has been called to paragraph 360, page 72, of the Report of the Physical Deterioration (1904) Committee, endorsing a recommendation of the Royal Commission (1903) on Physical Training in Scotland, to the effect that cases arise in which it is desirable that the preparation and cooking of meals for underfed school children ought to be regarded as one of the charges incident to school management, and whether he is in a position to assist the putting of this recommendation into practical effect.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: My inquiries on this subject have led me to believe that the wisdom of preparing and cooking meals on the school premises, as a mode of dealing with those cases in which children need to be provided with food elsewhere than at home, is seriously open to question.

Glamorganshire Evening Continuation School Grant.

MR. D. A. THOMAS (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Board of Education has paid to the Education Committee of the County Council of Glamorgan the grants earned by the evening continuation schools in the Aberdare urban district for the winter session of 1903–4; and, if so, the date on which the payment was made; and why payment is being withheld from the teachers in the locality.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The Board of Education have recently paid to the Education Committee of the Glamorganshire County Council the grants due for twelve out of the thirteen evening schools held in the Aberdare Urban District in the school year 1903–4. The greater number of the claims for these schools were not received by the Board till February of the present year. The claim for grant for the remaining school was sent back to the local education authority for further information in January, and has not yet been returned to the Board. The Board of Education have no information as to the alleged withholding of payment from the teachers.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: When was the grant paid?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I think on the 4th of this month, but I cannot say definitely.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he can state in which of the autonomous districts in Glamorganshire evening continuation schools were not opened during the past winter; and why they were not opened.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Evening schools have been opened in all the autonomous areas in Glamorganshire during the session of 1904–5, though apparently in the areas of Aberdare, Pontypridd, and Rhondda certain evening schools previously carried on by the late school boards and their successors have been discontinued. The Board understand that the difficulties which have arisen locally in these cases are likely to be overcome before the next evening school session begins.

Evening School Teachers' Salaries.

MR. D. A. THOMAS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education if he will consider the desirability of inserting in next winter's regulations for evening schools a provision that all teachers' salaries be fixed and not dependent on a share of the grant.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: The current regulations of the Board make it a condition of grant to evening schools that "the teachers must, as a rule, be paid by fixed salaries," and the importance which the Board attach to a compliance with this requirement is explained in the prefatory memorandum which is prefixed to those regulations.

Agricultural Instruction Rate in Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the District Councils of Abbeyleix and Mountmellick, embracing an area of four-fifths of Queen's County, have passed unanimously resolutions disapproving of a further levying of the rate for agricultural and technical instruction; and that, under the circumstances, the county council propose to levy the rate; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): Perhaps I may be allowed to answer this Question. Resolutions to the effect stated have been passed by the district councils named, but the county council, in the exercise of discretion vested in them, have decided to levy a rate. I do not propose to take any action in the matter.

Ness Harbour, Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state by whom the plans of Ness Harbour, Island of Lewis, were passed on behalf of the Scottish Office.

THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): Assuming that the hon. Member's Question refers to the breakwater, in aid of which a grant of £15,000 was made by the Government, I have to state that plans were prepared by Messrs. D. & T. Stevenson, and after obtaining a report on them from Colonel E. W. Malcolm, R.E., the Secretary for Scotland in December, 1891, authorised the Harbour Trustees to accept a tender for the execution of the works.

Mansfield Commission Report.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether he is now in a position to state when the Report of the Mansfield Commission will be laid upon the Table of the House.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: It is not possible to give the actual date, but the Report will probably be ready about Easter.

Illegal Trawling off the Isle of Moy.

CAPTAIN ELLICE (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether he has received any reply from the Northern Lights Commissioners with reference to the proposal that the light keepers on the Isle of Moy should be encouraged to report cases of illegal trawling coming under their notice; and whether he proposes to do anything to check this illegal trawling.

MR. SCOTT DICKSON: I am pleased to be able to inform the hon. Member that an arrangement has been made with the Northern Lights Commissioners and that the lighthouse keepers on the Isle of Moy will report such cases of illegal trawling as they observe. It would not be advisable to state what steps are to be taken to prevent illegal trawling, as such a statement might defeat the object in view.

Estates Commissioners—Irish Government's Instructions.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for West Waterford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what instructions have been given by the Irish Government to the Estates Commissioners with reference to the making of advances under the Land Act of 1903 for the purchase of holdings which are not mainly agricultural but which form part of estates which are mainly agricultural; whether, seeing that under the Land Purchase Acts, previous to the passing of the Land Act of 1903, advances were frequently made to tenants of holdings not mainly agricultural, he will say whether the policy of these Acts has been borne in mind in connection with the instructions given the Estates Commissioners; whether he is aware that the Estates Commisioners have had applications made to them by a large proportion of vendors under the Land Act of 1903 for the inclusion of such holdings in their estates; and that they had agreed to make such advances before instructions to the contrary were conveyed to them in or about November last; and whether, seeing that since these instructions a number of intending vendors of estates partly agricultural have been informed that advances will not be made in such cases, he will say whether the reason for these instructions is the difficulty of obtaining a loan without serious loss to the Irish Development Grant.

MR. WALTER LONG: It is impossible to deal satisfactorily, in replying to a Question such as this, with the numerous and complicated points raised in it. I have already stated that no general instructions of the kind contemplated by Section 23 (8) of the Act of 1903 have ever been drawn up or formulated; that I am at present engaged in formulating them, and hope soon to lay them on the Table of the House; and that, while the administrative machinery of the Act was being brought into operation, informal communications of a confidential character took place from time to time between the Executive and the Estates Commissioners. I would ask the hon. Member to wait until the regulations have been published, when he will have ample opportunity of discussing all these matters.

Sergeant Mullany, Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for West Waterford, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland under what circumstances Sergeant Mullany, of the Royal Irish Constabulary, who was stationed at Ballyduff, county Waterford, until recently, has been transferred from that station; and whether the transfer was at his own expense.

MR. WALTER LONG: The sergeant has been transferred in the interests of the public service, and at the public expense.

Crime in Ireland—Judges' Charges.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Judges of Assize, in their charges to the Grand Juries, have recently called attention to a serious increase of agrarian crime in Ireland; and whether, in these circumstances, it is intended to continue to reduce the strength of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Cannot the hon. Member specify the district he refers to and not make such vague charges?

MR. WALTER LONG: I think the Answer will be found to do that. My attention has been directed to the newspaper reports of the charges of the Judges of Assize to Grand Juries. I am unable to say how far these newspaper reports are an accurate representation of the language actually used by the learned Judges. Generally speaking, they referred to the peaceable and satisfactory condition of the country, but with respect to the county Galway and county Cork, and portions of the counties of Limerick and Kerry, the Judges' remarks were not satisfactory. The condition of these districts is engaging my most careful consideration, and I am taking special steps to ascertain the facts concerning each of them. In reply to the concluding inquiry, the Inspector-General of Constabulary, whom I have consulted, is of opinion that there is no present necessity for altering the police arrangements already made and provided for. I am making further inquiry into this matter also.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that at the recent assizes in Ulster more crime was dealt with than in the rest of Ireland altogether?

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): What agrarian crime has been committed in the county of Cork?

MR. WALTER LONG: I must ask for notice of that.

MR. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in the one portion of Kerry referred to the dissatisfaction arises from the fact that the landlords want twenty-four years purchase for first-term rents?

Public Bodies Order, 1904.

MR. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the number and date of the communications which invited opinion on the Public Bodies Order, 1904, from the local public bodies in Ireland; and whether he will say what number of such public bodies have expressed approval of the new Order, giving names and dates of such approval.

MR. WALTER LONG: Copies of the Order were sent on the 5th September last to each of the thirty-three county councils and to each of the six councils of county boroughs and on the 7th November copies were sent to the clerks of thirty-three of the principal urban district councils. Subsequently, at varying dates, copies were sent to all other officers of local authorities who applied for them. The Order having been made under the authority and by direction of Parliament, the Local Government Board did not require the local authorities to express approval or disapproval of the draft. It was laid before them in draft for the purpose of affording them an opportunity of making any suggestions and criticisms which occurred to them. No objections were made to the issue of the Order, but, on the contrary, many valuable suggestions were received and carefully considered, the large proportion of which were adopted by the Board.

Mr. DELANY: Can the right hon. Gentleman mention any one public body in Ireland which approved the Order?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I have said no objections were made, but suggestions were sent in and have been acted upon.

Land Purchase in North Mayo.

Mr. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many estates in North Mayo have been purchased by the Estates Commissioners or Congested Districts Board under the Act of 1903.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Congested Districts Board have agreed to purchase seven estates in North Mayo, but the estates have not yet become vested in the Board. The Estates Commissioners have purchased one estate in county Mayo, the name and locality of which I shall ascertain and communicate to the hon. Member.

Ballydoulon Estate.

Mr. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a portion of the Ballydoulon Estate purchased by the Congested Districts Board is to be given to a Mr. Rothwell, petty sessions clerk of Ballinasloe, who was never a tenant on the estate and who does not live within miles of it, seeing that Mr. Rothwell is already in possession of more than one farm elsewhere.

Mr. WALTER LONG: This estate has not been purchased by the Board.

Pole Carew and Butler Estate, County Cork.

Mr. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that immediately subsequent to the purchase agreement on the agricultural portion of Pole Carew and Butler Estate, Banteer, county Cork, similar agreements were signed by the inhabitants of the village for the purchase of their houses; and that within the past week an official of the Estates Commission visited the place and informed the village occupiers that their purchase agreements are to be set aside and they must revert to the old terms of tenancy; and, if so, will he say if this inspector has acted with the knowledge and sanction of the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, what explanation can the Commissioners give for not adhering to the purchase system in this case.

Mr. WALTER LONG: This Question has been referred to the inspector for his observations. Perhaps the hon. Member will repeat it on Monday.

Veterinary Branch, Irish Agricultural Department.

Mr. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, since it has been alleged that the Catholic clerks in the veterinary branch of the Agricultural Department are in no way prejudiced on account of their religion, he will state what is the disability which keeps these gentlemen, after eleven years service, at a practically stationary salary of £95 a year, while men of less experience were brought into the department to do the same class of work at £150 per annum, and were almost immediately promoted to staff clerkships worth considerably more; and whether, in making these latter appointments, the Catholic clerks were considered unfit to fill them; and, if so, why.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Department selected for the staff posts referred to clerks who, in their opinion, possessed the qualifications which rendered them most suitable for the discharge of the duties attached to these positions.

Mr. DELANY: From whom did the right hon. Gentleman get this information?

Mr. WALTER LONG: From the heads of the Department, and I can assure the hon. Member promotions are made according to the requirements of the public service.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Did the information come from Sir Horace Plunkett?

[No Answer was returned.]

Mrs. Lamphier's Estate, Foilacumin, County Tipperary.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mrs. Lamphier and her tenants have signed and lodged with the Estates Commissioners agreements for sale and purchase of her estate at Foilacumin, barony of Slievardagh, and county Tipperary; whether he is aware that on this estate there were two evicted tenants, Messrs. McCormac and Feehan, whose farms since their evictions have been held in possession by the owner; can he say why the farms have not been given back to those evicted tenants when the other tenants have arranged for purchase; and will he give instructions to the Estates Commissioners not to sanction the sale of this estate until the evicted tenants shall have been reinstated.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Agreements have been lodged. Applications for reinstatement were received from Messrs. Cormac and Feehan as representatives of former tenants. ~~These former~~ tenants, however, had not been evicted, but had received monetary compensation for surrendering their holdings to the landlord. The persons named, therefore, have no claim to reinstatement.

Dublin Tram Fares for Children.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why the Dublin Tramways Company levy full fares for children under twelve years of age; and whether the Commissioners of the Dublin Police regularly supervise the due observance of the by-law prohibiting overcrowding of passengers on tramway cars plying within the Dublin metropolitan district.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Company's by-laws exempt passengers from paying for children in arms under three years of age. I am not aware of any statutory provision which prohibits the levy of full fares for children under twelve. The police are instructed to enforce the by-law prohibiting overcrowding, and prosecutions are instituted when offences are detected.

Charges against Mountmellick Police.

Mr. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a man named Carroll was arrested at Summergrove, Mountmellick, on a charge of drunkenness, on the night of the 17th March, was handcuffed, and so treated by the police that, when brought to the police barrack at Mountmellick, he was suffering from such injuries that the sergeant-in-charge requisitioned the services of a surgeon, who ordered Carroll's removal to the Mountmellick workhouse hospital, where he lies in a critical condition; and whether he will give the names of the police constables who arrested Carroll, and say what steps he proposes taking in the matter.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Inquiries are being made in this matter, but they cannot be completed until the injured man's discharge from hospital in a few days. Carroll was arrested by Constables Michael Cryan and Dominick Masterton.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Are the constables meantime suspended from duty?

Mr. WALTER LONG: No, Sir.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: They ought to be.

W. T. Galway's Estate, Clooncah, County Galway.

MR. ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if a request has been forwarded by the Estates Commissioners to the Land Judge's Court with the view of purchasing the estate of William Thomas Galway, situate in the townland of Clooncah, county Galway, in order to resell same to the tenants; the date when the request was forwarded; and if any, and what, reply has been made by the Land Judge, the absolute order for sale having been made so far back as 1887.

MR. WALTER LONG: The request was issued to the Land Judge on February 2nd. The necessary documents have not yet been furnished by the Land Judge to the Commissioners.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): When are the documents likely to be sent?

MR. WALTER LONG: I cannot possibly answer that.

Irish Language—Dunfanaghy Prosecution.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a man named Nial MacBride was recently prosecuted at the Dunfanaghy Petty Sessions for not having his name and address legibly printed upon his cart; and whether, seeing that his name and address were correctly shown upon the cart in Irish characters, he will give directions that such prosecutions are not in future to be undertaken by the police.

MR. WALTER LONG: This case is *sub judice*, the magistrates having consented, at the defendant's instance, to state a case for the opinion of the superior Courts.

Licensing Fees in Ireland.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in some districts of Ireland petty sessions clerks charge a fee of 2s. 6d. to publicans for signing their licences when renewing same; and whether the attention of the Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks will be called to this practice.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Registrar of Petty Sessions Clerks is not aware that this practice exists. If the hon. Member will give me specific instances I will have inquiries made.

Elementary Science Teaching in Ireland.

MR. SAMUEL YOUNG (Cavan, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say how many centres there are in Ireland at which managers and teachers have applied for an elementary science course to be held, and have been refused owing to the withdrawal of the necessary grant; and whether the last annual report of the Head Organiser of Elementary Science will be given to the public.

MR. WALTER LONG: In four cases this year applications for elementary science classes have been refused by the Board of National Education as a result of the forthcoming termination of the period of employment of the sub-organisers. The Head Organiser's Report will be published with the Board's next Annual Report.

Cork and Fermoy Direct Line.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for West Waterford, I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, seeing that the period within which the Fishguard and Rosslare Railway Company was bound to proceed with the construction of the Cork and Fermoy direct line expired on August 1st, 1904, he will say what steps it is now proposed to take with regard to the sum of £93,000 which the Treasury agreed to place at the disposal of the Hybrid Committee on the Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbours Bill in 1898, to be applied towards some project calculated, in their view, to be beneficial to the South-East of Ireland.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): The period within which the Cork-Fermoy line should have been proceeded with expired as stated by the hon. Member. As the grant of £93,000 was conditional upon the completion of this line, there is now no question of its issue.

Stamp Duty on Irish Land Purchases.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for West Waterford, I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that the Inland Revenue assess stamp duty on all transfers of land purchased under the Purchase of Land (Ireland) Acts, or under the Land Act of 1903, not only on the money consideration paid by the transferee but on the entire amount of the outstanding portion of the advance to the purchasing tenant by the Land Commission or the Estates Commissioners; and whether, in view of the additional charge thus imposed on all transfers of purchased land, he will take steps, by legislation or otherwise, to limit the charge to the amount paid by the transferee.

*MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I would ask the hon. Member to put the Question down again for Monday next.

The Colonial Conference and Fiscal Reform.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the nature of the instructions to be given to the British representatives at the Colonial Conference to be held in 1906 will be settled by the Government during the present session; whether he will undertake to inform the House at the earliest possible opportunity after such instructions have been decided upon; and whether, if the present Government should be in power at the time of the Colonial Conference, he will undertake that such representatives shall have no power to deal with the fiscal question in any manner.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): At the same time may I ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in the event of a Colonial Conference being called together by the present Government, and any question of fiscal reform being delegated to it, each of the Colonies will have the same representation and voting power, or whether each will be represented proportionally to its population.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I think I have already intimated to the House that in my opinion all questions with regard to next year's Colonial Conference are premature at the present moment.

Company Directors in Parliament.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will consider the advisability of the introduction of legislation for the purpose of extending the provisions of the statutes disqualifying contractors with Government Departments from election to the House of Commons, and from sitting and voting therein to directors of incorporated trading companies contracting with Government Departments in their corporate capacity.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not propose to introduce any legislation on this subject.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that if a Member of this House has the smallest contract with the Post Office or Stationery Office he must leave it?

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order!

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL gave notice of the following Resolution, and said he was sure the Leader of the House would give him a day for it: "That, in the opinion of this House, the time has come for the extension of the provisions of the statutes of disqualifying contractors with Government Departments from election to the House of Commons, and from sitting and voting therein, to directors of incorporated trading companies contracting with Government Departments in their corporate capacity."

The Training of Teachers.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to give the promised opportunity for a discussion of the Minute of the Scotch Education Department on the training of teachers.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think I told the hon. Member for Banffshire that I could not promise facilities for the discussion of this question, but that an opportunity will arise on the Scotch Education Bill or the Estimates before the Minute comes into force.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Sir HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said he wished to ask the attention of the Prime Minister to the appointment of April 3rd as the evening for the discussion of the Bill promoted by the London County Council for carrying a tramway across the river. As the House was given a promise of two full days for the discussion of the Army Estimates in Committee, could not the First Lord of the Treasury take steps to prevent the deprivation this would mean from the time allotted for discussion of the Army Estimates.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) pointed out that the question of the tramways was down for to-night, and it was postponed until April 6th in order to avoid any difficulty. It was next postponed from April 6th till April 3rd, or rather it was brought back from April 6th to April 3rd, because hon. Members opposite were going to have a dinner, and thought it would be inconvenient to attend.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR said he knew nothing of these prandial engagements which deflected the true course of Parliamentary business. It rested not with him to allocate the time to be occupied by private Bills, but with the Chairman of Committees, who endeavoured, and he believed he did so very evenly, to divide the time required fairly between Government time and private Members' time.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY: Might I suggest that hon. Members opposite should put off their dinner?

Major SEELY appealed to the right hon. Gentleman to use his influence to ensure that the promise so solemnly given in reference to the Army Estimates discussion should be kept.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR would not admit that in letter or spirit there had been any breach of the undertaking given in the allocation of the time at his disposal. His hon. friend the Member for Peckham was interested in the County Council Bill and desired to move an instruction to the Committee; and surely it would be possible to come to an arrangement with the promoters of the Bill? Surely the hon. and gallant Gentleman could not mean to imply that he had been guilty of a breach of pledge?

Mr. CHURCHILL (Oldham): It will be in that case.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I expressly and specifically say that nothing of the kind has occurred or should be imputed.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Does not the right hon. Gentleman recollect that in consideration of the pledge which he gave the debate was allowed to terminate at an unexpectedly early hour? And now it appears that the pledge will not be carried out unless some arrangement is made.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sorry the hon. Gentleman should make such a suggestion. Everybody in this House who gives a moment's reflection to the subject will see that it is totally unfounded. No pledge with regard to Government time ever has been understood, or could be understood, as referring to time which is not under the control of the Government. I am informed that the original date was the 6th, and that it would have suited everybody. It would have suited the promoters of the Bill, and it would have suited my hon. friend who has an instruction on the Bill. I cannot imagine why we should not adhere to April 6th.

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY: We should be perfectly willing to have the discussion on April 6th.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The right hon. Gentleman is surely aware that if the whole of the evening of April 3rd were taken up by a private Bill, although the pledge would be kept in the letter, he would have broken the pledge in the spirit.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! This matter cannot be debated. Questions may be asked of Ministers about matters under their control, but this is a matter under the control first of the Chairman of Ways and Means, afterwards of the House. If it is understood that an alteration of the date would be convenient, it might be possible for the Chairman of Ways and Means to arrange an alteration. But it is perfectly clear that the Leader of the House has no control over the Chairman of Ways and Means.

Mr. CHURCHILL rose to speak, but was prevented by Ministerial interruptions from making himself heard.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! Has the hon. Member risen to a point of order?

Mr. CHURCHILL: May I be permitted to withdraw the words "he would have broken the pledge in the spirit," which escaped from me at the moment. I should have said "it would have been broken in the spirit."

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE TO CROPS BILL.

Reported, with Amendments, from the Standing Committee on Trade, etc.

Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 97.]

Minutes of the Proceedings of the Standing Committee to be printed. [No. 97.]

Bill as amended (in the Standing Committee), to be considered upon Friday, July 7th, and to be printed. [Bill 117.]

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from the Standing Committee on Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures: — Mr. Llewellyn; and had appointed in substitution: Sir J. Fortescue Flannery.

Report to lie upon the Table.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to make further provisions for the foundation of a Dean and Chapter of Newcastle, and for other purposes connected therewith." [Newcastle Chapter (Amendment) Bill [Lords.]

NEW BILLS.

CROWN LANDS BILL.

"To amend the Crown Lands Acts, 1829 to 1894," presented by Mr. Victor Cavendish: supported by Lord Balcarres; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 118.]

PUBLIC LIBRARIES BILL.

"To amend the Acts relating to Public Libraries by removing the existing limit to the amount of the Library Rate," presented by Mr. Tennant; supported by Sir Albert Rollit, Sir William Houldsworth, Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. Thornton, Mr. John Burns, Mr. Middlemore, Mr. Hunter Craig, and Mr. Haldane; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 119.]

SUPPLY [8th MARCH] REPORT.

Order read, for Further Consideration of Resolution—

ARMY SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE, 1904-5 (SOMALILAND).

"That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £550,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for additional Expenditure in respect of the following Army services, viz.:—

	£
Vote 1. Pay, etc., of the Army	985,000
„ 2. Medical Establishments, Pay, etc.	21,000
„ 6. Transport and Remounts	265,000
„ 7. Provisions, Forage, and other supplies	260,000
„ 12. Miscellaneous Effective Services	2,000
„ 14. Retired Pay, Half-Pay, and other non-effective charges for Officers, etc.	1,000
„ 15. Pensions and other non-effective charges for Warrant Officers, Non - Commissioned Officers, Men, and others	2,000
	1,536,000
Less Surpluses on other Votes	386,000
	1,150,000
Deduct Excess Appropriations in Aid	600,000
	£550,000

Resolution further considered—

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said he had not quite finished his speech the other evening when he was interrupted by the rules of debate, but he did not think he need occupy many more minutes, especially as there were several hon. Members on his side of the House who wished to take the opportunity afforded by that Vote of bringing forward a number of grievances. He had refrained from going into questions of detail, but he might remind the House that only within the last hour or so one of his complaints had received confirmation in an Answer to a Question which disclosed the fact that a large quantity of suits of clothes were disposed of by the War Office after the end of the war in South Africa at a reduction of forty per. cent. on the cost price. He thought that it was an illustration of what was going on in the War Office at the present time. There was a growing feeling among both soldiers and civilians all over the country that the War Office was not being managed economically and satisfactorily.

Both sides of the House last year greeted the appointment of the new Secretary for War with acclamation because they believed he was a reformer who would carry out reforms in the direction of economy. The Secretary for War had been a consistent critic of the extravagance of the War Office, and he had pledged himself over and over again to do what he could to secure a thorough investigation in regard to these matters. In his speech in introducing the Estimates last year he confessed that they did not represent his idea of what ought to be the character or scale of expenditure on the Army. That led them to believe that in the right hon. Gentleman they had one who intended to enforce economy at the War Office in every possible way, and to secure the reduction of the very unnecessary expenditure which undoubtedly was there going on. The present year's Estimates, however, showed that the reductions which the right hon. Gentleman had been able to make during the first year of his office were infinitesimally small. It was true he prided himself last year on making a reduction on the normal Estimates of £280,000, but the greater part of that was secured merely by wiping out altogether the Militia Reserves. This year they had a deficiency in the Estimates, and unfortunately they had no pledge for future economies. The new Estimates had already been printed, and they had been enabled to gather from them that there was to be no substantial reduction in the coming year. The intentions of the right hon. Gentleman had, no doubt, been very good, but it was to be feared that there were those at the War Office who had secured control over him, and were preventing him from obtaining any substantial reductions.

Unless substantial improvements were brought about swiftly, he feared that feeling in the country would rise to such an extent that the Army must suffer in years to come. They wanted not a slight reduction, but a very large curtailment, and the nation would insist upon that. This Vote afforded them the first opportunity they had had of showing their determination to secure a reasonable diminution in the Army Estimates. If they could only prevent excessive expenditure in the present year, they might rely upon it that in future years it would be a more easy task, and they would have submitted to them Estimates which were complete in themselves, and which would not have to be added to by Supplementary Estimates and additional Votes. He hoped the House would tell the gentlemen who now controlled the War Office that economies must be made, that the economies promised last year must be carried out, and he trusted that such a lesson would be given as would ensure the economic administration of the War Office in the future. He begged to move the reduction of the Vote by £250,000.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£550,000,' and insert '£300,000.'"—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That £550,000 stand part of the said Resolution."

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): said he had an Amendment on the Paper which was covered by the Amendment of his hon. friend, with whose views he heartily sympathised. He, however, desired particularly to call attention to item B.B., namely, the grant of £60,000 to the Rhodesian Railways. When the Estimate was presented earlier in the session he put a Question on the Paper asking the Secretary for War for explanations of the Vote, and he was told the right hon. Gentleman would give full details in Committee. Unfortunately up to the present no opportunity had been offered for the submission of these explanations. This Vote illustrated, if anything could do so, a statement made two years ago by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon when Chancellor of the Exchequer that it was almost as expensive to make peace as it was to make war. They would find that after the conclusion of the war all the public authorities in South Africa, all the various Colonial Governments and other bodies, with one accord set on the Imperial Exchequer in order to get as much out of it as possible. They thought it a fair game and they played it as hard as they could. In one particular instance, the Natal Government made extensive claims, and within a few weeks offered to compromise the whole matter, for exactly one-half, and Lord Kitchener suggested that the better plan was to close with that offer as quickly as possible. Now, this grant raised a very similar question, although on a somewhat smaller scale. The Rhodesian Railway was practically the Chartered Company; it was at any rate subsidiary to the Chartered Company, and the majority of the shares in it were held by or guaranteed by that company. The company received a grant of £20,000 every year from the Imperial Exchequer, and had done so ever since 1897. Technically, indeed, the grant came out of the funds of the Bechuanaland Protectorate, but inasmuch as the grants to that Protectorate varied from £30,000 to £70,000, it would be seen that they sufficed to cover the grant to the Rhodesian Railway Company.

Now, in regard to this particular claim. It first came under the notice of the House more than two years since, and it was brought up in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General. It was a claim for compensation for the use of the railway during the time of the siege of Mafeking. Practically this country had the sole use of the railway from October 1st, 1899, down to the month of June, 1900. When the claim was under consideration the authorities of this country took up the position, after consultation with the Military Director of Railways in South Africa, that while it was proper that compensation should be granted, it should be calculated on the actual cost of working the railway, and that it should not be based solely on the nine months whilst we were in military occupation, but that the figures for a complete year should be taken into consideration. That position was agreed to by the War Office, the Treasury, and the Colonial Office, and on that basis it was worked out that the balance due to the company amounted to £24,817 3s. 8d. That sum was offered to the Rhodesian Railway Company. He would like to make clear exactly what happened. The company claimed that there was a loss on the undertaking during the whole period in which we occupied the line, and they asked to be recouped the loss of that period. But on our side it was submitted that at the end of the occupation the line was handed back to the company with a considerable accumulation of traffic which to a large extent compensated for the loss which had been suffered during the antecedent period, and therefore any claim for adjustment should be made for the whole year and not merely for the nine months. The company further made rather a large demand. They wanted to be compensated for the loss they suffered during the war over the whole of their railway system. That, to his mind, was a preposterous demand which could not be entertained by the Government for one moment.

But what had been the history of the question since then? Last year, in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General presented to the Public Accounts Committee, they were told that the thing had not been settled, and when they pressed the Director of Public Accounts of the War Office for further information, he replied on June 10th, that both sides had agreed to arbitration, and he suggested that he should not be pressed to give further information on the subject because the moment was not convenient for the discussion of it. The Committee agreed, consequently, not to press the demand for further information, and they had no further information up to the time of the receipt of the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, when they ascertained that after protracted negotiations the claims of the company had been settled in August last by the payment of £60,000. The Report went on to say that it would be remembered that the sum of £75,000 was advanced to the company in 1901, and that, added to the £60,000 now paid, made a total charge of £135,000 for the use of the line for the nine months during which it was occupied by the military in connection with the siege of Mafeking, and that was in addition to the grant of £20,000 made annually out of the Public Exchequer. He thought this was a case in which the war in South Africa had proved a somewhat valuable asset to the railway company, and, bearing in mind the fact that those largely interested in the company were to a great extent the cause of the war, it did not seem right that they should make a really substantial profit in that manner. We had had to bear the burden of the war not only in loss of life, but also in loss of treasure, and then we found that those who were primarily the cause of the conflict, and in whose interests we undertook the fighting, were endeavouring to get the last possible farthing out of the taxpayers of this country.

He did think that this was a matter which required explanation from the right hon. Gentleman, and he would like to put to him one or two specific Questions. First, was the offer of arbitration ever accepted, and if it was, why was it abandoned? In the second place, why did the War Office depart from the position, taken up on the recommendation of the Military Director of Railways in South Africa, to accept liability only on the basis of the actual cost of working the line, which amounted to £24,800? Why was that arrangement departed from? The Secretary for War had told them that further claims amounting to £23,000 were put in by the company. They would like to know what those claims were for, and he desired to point out further that even the £23,000 added to the £24,000 did not make up the £60,000 which had actually been paid. How was the balance of nearly £13,000 accounted for? Was the company demanding interest, or what was the ground upon which this large sum had been paid? What was the explanation of the extraordinary change of policy which had taken place in this matter? He thought that the people of this country had a claim to examine into the whole question.

*MR. LYELL (Dorsetshire, E.) thought hon. Members were under a large obligation to the hon. Member for Lichfield for the somewhat sweeping character of the reduction he had moved. He had, no doubt, put it at that substantial figure so that it might afford opportunity for hon. Members to give expression to the dissatisfaction they felt at various matters connected with the administration of the War Office.

He was not quite sure that his hon. friend had made his case quite big enough. The various changes in the Government had been so completely rapid and kaleidiscopic, and the information imparted to the House had been so meagre, that he might be pardoned if he asked for a little more information in regard to Somaliland. A short time ago they had a scheme of punitive expeditions there against the Mullah, who was declared to be mad. The result was that they spent something like £3,000,000 in endeavouring to catch and detain him during His Majesty's pleasure. They were told that the Government went to war with the Mullah to protect the tribes with whom we had treaties. The hon. Member for Stepney insisted the other day how extremely important it was to keep faith with native tribes; and how anything in the way of breach of faith with them was known in India, talked about, and might lead to dire consequences. We agreed, believed, and trembled from fear of what might happen when the inhabitants of India knew of the attitude the Government had taken up with reference to the hon. Member for King's Lynn. The noble Lord the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs on the same day told the House that we undertook these expeditions in Somaliland not to acquire territory but to do something better—to maintain our reputation among certain tribes in Somaliland for keeping engagements. But the Somali parsnips went unbuttered, because the noble Lord went on to announce a general policy of scuttle in Somaliland, tempered by a free distribution of rifles. That was an extremely important announcement. The last transformation, however, was announced not, as hon. Members would have thought it right, to this House but to the Press. That was that an agent representing the Italian Government had come to an arrangement with the Mullah; in fact, had entered into a written treaty between the Italian Government and the Mullah, with the subsequent cordial assent of the British Government, by which the Mullah's sovereignty or authority over a large tract of what the late Marquess of Salisbury called "light land" in that part of Africa was to be recognised, and, in return, the Mullah promised not to raid the British and Italian protected tribes.

He thought the Government must excuse him if he asked for more information as to that treaty. Why was it not entered into before? It was not for want of examples on the North-West Frontier of India, where the tribes, for fighting and other powers, could give points to any native tribes in Somaliland. In an interesting speech on the Financial Statement for India for the year 1901–2, Lord Curzon gave an account of the Mahsud Waziri tribes on the North-West Frontier who had raided posts, stolen rifles, carried off women, and had generally played the same game as the Mullah had done in Somaliland. The Indian Government decided not to adopt the plan of a punitive expedition, for that had never proved satisfactory; but they proceeded to blockade the Waziri country for fifteen months. That was an extremely cheap form of coercion. A village or two was burned, and the tribal subsidy which the Waziri had enjoyed of 10,000 rupees a month for keeping the caravan trade routes open was stopped. At the end of fifteen months these tribes submitted, made restitution of the stolen rifles, paid a fine, and promised to behave themselves in future. Lord Curzon made it plain that it was the financial pressure which prevailed. What he wanted to know was whether anything of the kind was going to be arranged with the Mullah; whether there was to be any financial control over him; and whether he was to be paid any subsidy for keeping the caravan routes open?

Then the noble Lord also told the House that there was to be an issue of arms to the tribes. Was the House to understand that these arms were to be something in the nature of a substitute for the withdrawal of our protection from the tribes with whom we had entered into that engagement? Before the announcement of the agreement with the Mullah he had considered the arms were a very poor substitute for the Government's promise of protection to these tribes; but they could hardly expect that the Government should keep their promise to a handful of savage tribes when they had already broken a promise made to free-fooders nearer home. The Government displayed great anxiety to protect the tribes in Somaliland, but had made no arrangement to protect their friends from the raids of the Mullah of Birmingham. He wanted to know whether this arrangement for the distribution of arms to the native tribes had been altered or varied in any way. The noble Lord had practically refused any information as to the number of rifles that had been distributed and had told him that on reflection he would see that that was not a proper Question to ask. He had been reflecting ever since and could not find any reason why that Question should not have been answered. The noble Lord was on the horns of a dilemma. Were the rifles to be distributed to the tribes effective or non-effective weapons? If they were only something of the nature of trade muskets, they must have been issued merely for the purpose of throwing dust in the eyes of people at home. But if they were in the nature of weapons of precision, then he asked the noble Lord whether he was not of opinion that that was a contravention of the spirit, if not the letter, of the Act of the Brussels Conference of 1890. That Conference dealt with four-fifths of Africa, including Somaliland, and the various signatory Powers parties to that Conference, of which Great Britain was one, bound themselves not to allow any importation of weapons of precision, and *a fortiori* not to distribute them themselves among the inhabitants of the countries with which the Conference Act dealt. It was possible that the noble Lord would shelter himself under the exceptions named in Article 9 of the Act. The exceptions were arms carried by travellers, or by those who could give guarantees that the arms were not to be traded to the natives, or were for the use of an organised force. He did not think it possible that these exceptions could cover the distribution of arms to certain selected tribes in Somaliland. Again, had the noble Lord informed the other signatory Powers to the Brussels Conference Act of his intention to arm certain selected tribes in Somaliland? He was sure, with the knowledge he had of those tribes under our protection, that this arming policy might be extremely dangerous and lead to considerable loss of life in inter-tribal disputes.

But, again he asked, why was all this not done years ago? Why should we now have to learn our business in colonial administration from the Italian Government which had so few colonies? What information was now at the disposal of His Majesty's Government which was not at their disposal years ago? Colonel Hayes Sadler reported on April 12th, 1899, when the Mullah first made his appearance, that the Mullah had settled disputes among the tribes, had kept them from raiding each other, and was generally thought to be in support of law and order. And he had even sent in a prisoner to Berbera. The Mullah was then considered to be a man with whom it was perfectly possible to deal and who was actually willing to enter into something like an Extradition Treaty with us. Why was not an arrangement arrived with him at that time? Until a satisfactory Answer to some of these Questions were given he would certainly support the reduction.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said that to many Members of the House the original Army Estimates appeared excessive, but now that excessive burden was to be aggravated by additional expenditure such as this Supplementary Vote of £1,500,000. He was afraid that this Supplementary Vote, as well as others, often stood for waste. He would submit that this Motion for a substantial reduction should be supported by all who were in favour of efficiency and economy in the Army. The House had discussed Army reform for years—every kind of change in the system at the War Office, every kind of Army reform had been suggested, every kind of promise had been given as to efficiency and economy, but it had all come to nothing. These discussions were to a great extent idle; and under the circumstances the House might well despair of securing any economy or effective reform. He was very glad this substantial reduction had been moved and he would support it.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said he wished to revert to a matter which was of great interest to his constituency. He desired to know what steps were being taken by the War Office to see that animals now being brought back from Africa were in a healthy condition. No such steps were taken after the South African War; and the result was that what was known as the "African horse disease" had appeared in his constituency. Only ten days ago he saw in the stables of the Marquess of Waterford two horses suffering from this disease, and they had to be slaughtered. They were told that the animals should be slaughtered and that half the money would be refunded, but he thought the entire value should be given. That would make the owners more ready to inform the authorities when a case of disease appeared.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said he hoped the noble Lord would be able to explain rather more definitely than he had what was the policy of the Government in respect to the native tribes in Somaliland. A fortnight ago, he himself alluded to the way in which the tribes had been victimised by constant changes of policy on the part of the Government. On that occasion the noble Lord stated that in 1901 the policy had been tried of defending the frontier, but it had to be abandoned owing to the difficulty involved in protecting a range of 500 miles and the expense incurred in maintaining a garrison of 10,000 men. The Government on that occasion stated that they had not in any way thrown over their obligations to the native tribes under the treaties of 1886; but they also declared that responsibility would be confined to the coast line and that in the event of any difficulties occurring in the *Hinterland* they would be prepared to deal with them by means of punitive expeditions. That policy had, however, been found to be very extravagant; and now another policy had been adopted. That was to arm the tribes and to organise them so that they might be in a position to defend themselves in any future emergency. That was a frank and plain declaration which he thought the House understood; but on Tuesday last he asked the noble Lord as to the area in which the natives would look after their own interests; and the noble Lord said that the natives had the right to protection from this Government throughout the area in which we had treaty engagements. So far as he understood the noble Lord, he now repudiated the policy he laid down a fortnight ago. What was the exact attitude of the Government towards the tribes? Were the tribes which had been armed to be protected or were they to be left to protect themselves? That was a point which ought to be cleared up. The House should also be informed as to the terms which had been entered into by the Italian Government, and also whether this Government assented to them.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.) said he would try to explain the policy of His Majesty's Government, but he thought he had already made it sufficiently clear. There had been no question of a repudiation of their obligations. It was said that they had over and over again changed their policy; but there were only two possible policies. The first was that which Liberal as well as Conservative Governments had hitherto followed, that of depriving the tribes of their arms and leaving them defenceless. The second policy, the policy which they had now adopted, was that of placing the tribes in possession of a certain number of rifles and superintending an organisation which they hoped would enable them to meet any raid that was likely to be brought against them in the future. It was quite impossible for him to forecast the extent to which in the event of another raid by another Mullah the Government might feel bound to come to their defence if their own resources were not sufficient; but he certainly did not think these tribes would have any claim upon His Majesty's Government to repeat the expenditure of life and money which they had recently incurred if they had not made good use of the opportunities now placed in their hands.

The hon. Member for East Dorset had asked him about the number and character of the rifles issued. He did not understand his Question the other day as meaning whether they were toy rifles or not. No one would suppose that so absurd a policy was contemplated as supplying rifles that would be useless; most of them were of the Martini-Henri pattern. The only thing he said with regard to these rifles was that he thought it was inexpedient to give detailed information as to the exact number supplied, and he thought this was a proposition which would not be demurred to by hon. Gentlemen opposite. The number was not very large and the distribution was under the charge of General Swayne. Another Question had been asked him with regard to the Brussels Conference, whether the supply of arms was not a contravention of an Article of that Act. This article had been read by an hon. Member, and it really supplied the answer. There were two exceptions under the provisions of that Act, and it was under the first that they justified this limited issue of rifles. The paragraph in Article 9 of the General Act of the Brussels Conference was in the following terms—

> "Besides the measures directly taken by Government for the arming of the public force and the organisation for their defence, individual exception shall be admitted for persons affording sufficient guarantees that the arms and ammunition delivered to them will not be given, assigned, or sold to third persons, etc, etc."

MR. LYELL asked whether the noble Lord meant to say that the phrase *force publique* in that Article covered the distribution of arms to individuals as distinct from an organised force.

*EARL PERCY said his own opinion was that the phrase was susceptible of different interpretations. It was applied to sentries in districts of West Africa, leased to concessionary Companies. He should certainly interpret it as applicable to a tribal organisation for self-defence.

MR. GUEST (Plymouth) said he did not understand the present position of the Government with regard to Somaliland. Had the whole expeditionary force been withdrawn? And what force was to be maintained under the present policy.

*EARL PERCY said he explained these matters at some length when the question was formerly debated. He explained that they were maintaining a permanent garrison in Somaliland of about 500 men, and, in addition, for one year they had an Indian regiment, a force of about 800, which would be withdrawn as soon as the organisation of the tribes was complete. The expeditionary force was withdrawn last July. With regard to the terms of peace, he was afraid he could not give the information asked for. It was rather peculiar, but they were without the actual details; all that they actually knew was that the Mullah had signed peace with the representative of the Italian Government, and that he had sent a deputation to Berbera to sign peace with General Swayne.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said they had been told that the Government were going to change their policy in Somaliland and provide the tribes with arms in order that they might defend themselves. There was no use crying over spilt milk, but he wished to point out that what had taken place in respect to our relations with Somaliland was an object-lesson for the people outside this House to bear in mind. The Mullah had a religion of his own, and he exercised sway over waterless deserts which nobody could want. We said he was a madman, and we thought, because we said so, that somebody should put him in a madhouse. We sent two expeditions against him and he beat us. We found it impossible to get the better of him. Now the Italian Government stepped in and did precisely what we ought to have done. We ought to have asked what frontiers he wanted, but as long as we treated him as a fanatic we could not come to terms with him. The whole thing was reported in the Italian newspaper *Tribuna* some days ago, and it was surprising that General Swayne had not sent the information. The Government were always behind with their information. The only thing they could do would be to turn out the present Government as fast as they could, or other parts of the world would be lost also. There was a strong case against the Government in regard to the Rhodesian railways. The military people said that the utmost we owed for them was £24,000. An additional claim was put in for £23,000 and we proposed to go to arbitration.

That proposal seemed to have been dropped, and eventually £60,000 was paid. He did not know why we should subsidise these railroads. He asked the Secretary of State for War the other day what was the amount of the guarantee by the Chartered Company, and the right hon. Gentleman referred him to the company, stating that they would be delighted to furnish him with the information. The secretary of the company had said that he would refer to the board, but the hon. Member believed that unless the representative of the Government used influence with the company to get the Return he would not get it. The Chartered Company had, he understood, guaranteed all the debentures, and he wanted to know what the amount of that guarantee was.

Sir WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he wanted to call attention to the item in the Vote of £20,000 for medical establishments and pay, which, he thought, required some explanation. He hoped the Financial Secretary to the Treasury was in a position to give it. He found from the detailed statement that the sum was mainly for the purpose of paying civil surgeons. It was a remarkable fact that some years after the war was over the expenditure for civil surgeons should be increasing. In the Estimates for the year before the one they were now discussing the expenditure for civil surgeons was £42,000, and that in time of peace. Last year it was reduced to £36,000, but now, on account of their marvellous want of foresight as to the expenditure on civil surgeons, the Department came in for an additional Vote of £20,000. That showed a slipshod and slovenly way of conducting public business. The other day the Secretary of State for War informed him that he had added 462 medical officers to the staff; but there must have been some mistake in his figures, for on looking at the Army List he found the total strength was 777 for the year 1904–5, 770 for the previous year, and 710 for the year before that. But if the Army Medical Staff was being increased, why was an extra £20,000 wanted for civil surgeons? There must be some explanation for this enormous increase. It arose to some extent out of the policy of the Advisory Board of not having Army medical officers at small stations, the plea being that they would get rusty. But a man who was in earnest about his profession would not get rusty anywhere. Apparently the Army medical officers were not stationed in small districts, but were kept in large districts, where probably they would not get rusty, and they had to employ civil surgeons to do the work which ought to be done by the Army medical officers. In Yorkshire and some great towns elsewhere, they saw a retired medical officer doing recruiting examinations, and civil surgeons looking after the wives and children of soldiers, while the soldiers themselves had occasionally to be sent to the nearest large town to go into a civil hospital, instead of being treated by their own medical officers as they ought to be. The whole system wanted careful inquiring into. This gross and hitherto inexplicable extravagance in the employment of civil surgeons was one that he hoped would be explained in order that they might understand why some £20,000 extra was being spent on a department which, if the Army Medical Corps was efficient, ought not to be required at all.

Sir CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) said the knowledge of the hon. Member for Northampton was encyclopædic, but he was not quite right about the Mullah. The Mullah was not by any means a chieftain. He was a stevedore at Aden, and a camel driver on the Somali coast; he was called mad, but he was not mad at all. That was only a figure of speech in those countries for people who happened to be religious.

Mr. LABOUCHERE asked whether the hon. and gallant Gentleman suggested that an honest working man was the worse for being religious.

Sir CARNE RASCH said that was not the case at all; he merely suggested that the hon. Gentleman should follow his example. For all he had heard the Mullah was a hard nut to crack and very difficult to get on with, but he was not a chieftain as represented by the hon. Member for Northampton. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were very difficult to please. They objected to the Government arming the tribes and withdrawing the troops; they equally objected to the three expensive and unsatisfactory expeditions against the Mullah. As to the suggestion that the Mullah's country should be blockaded, it was absolutely impossible to blockade a territory 500 miles long by 300 wide with two or three battalions of native troops. Another suggestion was that Lord Curzon's policy of withdrawing subsidies should be followed, but they could not withdraw a subsidy which had never been given. He thought the noble Lord was possibly a little premature in withdrawing so many troops from the Somali coast. There were only certain battalions of native troops to hold something like 400 miles of lines of communication. The whole business was in the nature of a Gilbert and Sullivan *opéra bouffe*. The Amir of Abyssinia attacked the Mullah; the Mullah attacked the tribes on the Somali coast under our protection; no one knew why, but he did so, and the Government were bound to protect them. The coast line of the Red Sea was especially valuable as being the open door to Abyssinia, and if we did not look after it other people would. Abyssinia was a country with which a good deal might be done, and if we did not look after it somebody else would. A short time ago he suggested that it would be as well if the Mullah could be arranged with or "squared." That appeared to have been an intelligent anticipation of events, as the Mullah had been squared by the Italians. If Colonel Swayne or somebody else could make a similar arrangement it would save this country a great deal of money and be a good thing all round.

Mr. BURDETT-COUTTS (Westminster) said that it making a few remarks on the item of pay for civilian Medical Officers he had no wish to revive the echoes of a past controversy except so far as they bore upon the present position of the Army Medical Service. The House would remember that in that controversy three distinct objects were put forward. The first and most pressing was the amelioration of the condition of the 20,000 sick and wounded at that time lying in the military hospitals in South Africa. That object was immediately secured, for within a fortnight or three weeks after the attention of the public had been drawn to the matter a complete transformation was effected in the hospitals concerned. The second object was to secure a permanent and organic reform of the Army Medical Service. That also had been largely secured, and in that connection the right hon. Gentleman the present Secretary of State for India, however much he might have invited criticism by his other schemes of Army reform, deserved great credit for the sincere and practical manner in which he carried out the reform of the Army Medical Department. The third object was so to materialise the lessons of the war that, should the country be called upon to engage in any such struggle in the future, it would be impossible for the medical disasters of the South African campaign to be repeated. He regretted to say with regard to that object we were not in a much better position than before or during the war. Everyone would admit that it was impossible to maintain during peace an Army or military departments equal to all the demands of a great war. If that were true in a general sense, it was especially true of the Medical Department. This was a matter which went to the root not only of the efficiency of the medical service, but also of the effective protection of the taxpayer. It was in no way necessary in peace time to maintain the Army Medical Department at war strength; and it so happened that that department was more easy of expansion than any other in case of need. Artillery and trained artillerymen and engineers could not be secured at a moment's notice, but there was at all times an adequate supply of civilian medical men, ready and willing, often at considerable sacrifice, to give their services in time of war. That was the case about the time of the South African War, but because there was no system or organisation for utilising the services of civilian medical men the Army Medical Service broke down. Two years ago the then Secretary of State for War assured the House that he fully realised the importance of this matter, and that at the beginning of the next session he proposed to introduce a scheme for the proper organisation of civilian surgeons in time of war, but nothing had since been heard of the matter.

There were two ways in which civilians could be utilised in time of war. One was in the form of separate and solid units, possibly controlled by an officer from the Army Medical Department in matters affecting their *status* as Army hospitals, but otherwise self-governed and self-contained, entirely dependent upon civilian medical officers. That method was admirably illustrated by the voluntary hospitals in the South African War. There was another way, namely, that civilian practitioners should be obtained and absorbed, so to speak, into the regular Army Medical Service, and should have their proper places apportioned to them in military hospitals so that they could work together in a campaign without any friction and with the best possible results to the sick and wounded. The absence of a system of that sort in the last war produced the most dire results. There might be very few hon. Members who had watched this question closely, but he wished to remind the Committee of a curious case, typical of many others, which was brought before the Hospital Commission, in which in the largest hospital in Bloemfontein civilian medical officers carried on the hospital, interspersed with the Regular Army Medical officers. Owing, however, to there having been no system whereby their proper places could be ascertained and arranged the friction between these two classes of medical men was so great that this particular hospital was entirely disorganised; and when the Surgeon-General, who was the chief of the Army Medical Officers in South Africa, was examined, he admitted that he was perfectly helpless to suggest a remedy and that the friction must go on until the machine broke down. All this could be obviated by a little care and prevision, and by taking into counsel the heads of the civilian medical profession in this country in conjunction with the heads of the Army Medical Department. Those who had watched what had happened in South Africa would admit that some organised plan of this sort, which should be accepted by the Army Medical Department and acceptable to and sympathised with by the civilian medical profession, was absolutely necessary to prepare this country for a great war so far as the medical service was concerned.

He would not enlarge upon this subject, but he would put it to his hon. friend the Financial Secretary to the War Office whether he could inform the Committee what progress had been made in this matter, or at least if the hon. Member could assure them that the Secretary of State realised the important bearing this question had upon the preparedness of the country for a great war. He was aware that there had been in the archives of the War Office since the latter part of the year 1900 a scheme drawn up by an extremely able civilian medical officer of great war experience, Dr. George Stoker, who in the first place originally suggested and drew up the lines, explained in a letter to *The Times*, of the system upon which the whole arrangements for the voluntary hospitals were carried out, who assisted to organise the first hospital, and suggested to Lord Iveagh the scheme of his Irish hospital, and accompanied it throughout the South African War. That gentleman was one of the finest ambulance leaders whom he saw in the Russo-Turkish War, and he had studied this question, and he placed before the War Office a scheme of civilian medical aid upon the lines on which he thought any scheme in the future must be drawn. He desired to ask whether the attention of the Financial Secretary to the War Office, or of the Secretary of State for War, had really been directed to this matter.

*The FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. Bromley Davenport, Cheshire, Macclesfield) said no one would question the great importance of the subject to which the Member for Westminster had referred, and the importance of the speech he had delivered upon a question to which he had devoted much time and attention with the object of securing improvements where they had been very badly required. This was a question in which the Secretary of State for War had been interesting himself very much indeed, and he thought his right hon. friend would be able to give him at a later stage on the Estimates the assurance he had asked for. The question of the Army Medical Corps resolved itself into two parts: (1) what was required in time of peace; and (2) what was required in time of war. In regard to the Royal Army Medical Corps, in time of war the establishment had to be kept enormously large, and in time of peace this was not necessary. He did not think hon. Members who had raised this question would contend that the establishment of the Army Medical Corps ought to be so great in time of peace as to enable it to deal with the requirements of war. He thought, also, that they would agree with him that, in case of war, it was most desirable that they should call in the assistance of those civil doctors who, during the South African War, rendered such splendid service to the country. He thought the Association of the Royal Army Medical Corps with the civilian branch, upon that occasion, had been of very great service to both branches of that great profession. He understood one of the complaints was that this Estimate indicated that the Royal Army Medical Corps was insufficient in establishment and strength. That was the principal reason which had necessitated this Supplementary Estimate. They could not maintain a larger number of men than that for which they had estimated without affecting not merely one, but all the Votes on the Estimates. It was, therefore, unfair on this account to say that the War Office had been proved to be incompetent. In the same way the necessity of maintaining in South Africa a larger number of men than they had estimated for affected all the Votes. In regard to this particular Vote they had anticipated that at the beginning of the year the garrison in South Africa would be very largely reduced; but as a matter of fact it was not reduced for many months after. The necessity for maintaining a considerably larger garrison than was estimated for had made greater demands than were expected upon the medical service. He agree that the Royal Army Medical Corps was not sufficiently large, and its strength had not been kept up to its establishment, but during the coming year he believed proposals would be made by the Secretary of State for War to increase the establishment, and he hoped they would be able to recruit a sufficient number of medical officers to meet all requirements.

With regard to the importation of disease amongst horses in Ireland, it was generally accepted by the veterinary surgeons that it had originated in South Africa, but there was no means of proving it. He could assure the House that no further disease was likely to be introduced, because horses were not to be brought from South Africa to Ireland at all in the future. All the horses which were no longer required in South Africa would, in the future, be sold there. As to the question of compensation, he was, of course, not in a position to say anything about that. The question could only arise if a man who had lost a horse could prove that it was directly due to some action on the part of the War Office Department in bringing horses suffering from disease into Ireland. He did not say that under no circumstances would any person get compensation, but he thought it would be extremely difficult to prove that any compensation was due.

Turning to the question of the payment of £60,000 to the Rhodesia Railway Company, he had been asked to give a full statement. He would endeavour to do so, and he would make his statement as short as he could. This sum represented a payment to the Rhodesia Railway Company for services rendered by this company during the war. During the early part of the war, military exigencies required the use, by the military authorities, of certain portions of the railway owned and controlled by the Rhodesia Railway Company. It should be remembered that by the terms of the contract these railways were entitled to charge two-third rates upon all Imperial troops and military stores carried along their system. They made no claim for damage or deterioration of their railway or rolling stock under the conditions in which in time of war the railway was used for transport. All they claimed was that any actual loss they suffered should be made good to them and that out-of-pocket expenses which they had incurred by payments made for services rendered to the military authorities in connection with the working of the line, should be repaid. No claim for profit had been made. The

War Department had regarded this question from the point of view of how much was due to the railway company for services rendered—services which were not exclusively railway services, but which included such items as cutting wood for fuel, building forts, sinking wells, labour and materials supplied for armoured trains and provisions supplied, as well as stores and troops carried along the line. The claims of the railway company were divided into three. First, there was a claim for the actual out-of-pocket expenses during the period of military control from October 14th to June 12th, £110,771 13s. 6d., second, the actual out-of-pocket expenses after June 12th, 1900, £22,917 16s. 6d., and third, the payment of debenture interest during that portion of the time when, by reason of military occupation of the railway, they were unable to earn revenue for themselves, £66,027. The total claim therefore amounted to £199,716. Lord Kitchener dealt with the first claim for £75,000, and left the two subsequent claims to be dealt with by the War Department. Those claims amounted to £88,947, and they had now been finally settled by a payment of £60,000. There was no doubt whatever as to the liability of the Government to pay. The only question was whether the amount paid was adequate or excessive. He never felt more certain of anything in his life than the fact that he had made an extraordinarily good bargain when he finally settled the claims for £60,000. The whole of the case had been before the Law Officers of the Crown, who advised that it was one which should be dealt with by way of a compromise. The War Department had therefore regarded it simply from the point of view of the value of the services rendered, and the total claim of nearly £200,000 had been settled for £135,000.

With regard to the question of subsidy raised by the hon. Member for Northampton, the subsidy of £20,000 a year to the railway was only for ten years, and it was a subsidy not direct from the Imperial Government, but from the Protectorate to the railway company. The only way in which the Government was brought into the matter was that it had always been an accepted principle that no Crown Colony or British Protectorate should ever be allowed to make default, and therefore it was necessary in the case of Bechuanaland to make a contribution from the Imperial Exchequer to the Protectorate, and it might be held that that included the £20,000 due from the Protectorate Government to the railway. The Government did seriously consider advancing the proposition that this £20,000 ought to be regarded as income, but legal opinion was against them. With regard to the offer to settle the claim of the railway for £24,000, it was perfectly true that at one time such an offer was made, but that offer covered only a part and not the whole of the claim of the railway company. It was based also on a contention that could not afterwards be sustained. The company advanced the argument that it was not fair that they should bear the burden of the working expenditure for the railway on which there was no profit during the war, and that we should have the benefit of the traffic which followed after the war. The War Department claimed that we should take all the receipts of the line during the railway year, that the receipts should be put on one side, and the debenture interest, which was £100,000, on the other. The receipts amounted to £76,000, and the War Department offered to pay the extra £24,000 but legal opinion was against that and it was abandoned. He was satisfied that the settlement which had been arrived at was a wise and a just one and would be so considered in the long run.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 241; Noes, 208. (Division List No. 80.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred

Balfour, Rt Hon. A. J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Trancis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col. H. F (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J A (Glasgow
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants. W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J. (Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton, Marq of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords. N. W
Heaton, John Henniker
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Faversha)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hon Geo T (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hn Col W
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm F (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn, H L W (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks NR
Lee, Arthur H (Hants Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col Hon Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut-Col A R
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col Charles W (Evesham)
Long, Rt Hn Walter (Bristol S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C (Cumb, Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lyttelton, Rt Hon Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A W
M'Calmont, Col James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W
Majendie, James A H
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n)
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt Hon Sir Frederick G
Montagu, Hon J Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C
Murray, Charles J (Coventry)
Murray, Col Wnydham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn Wm Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Rt Hn J. Parker (Lanarks)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Rt. Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir J. Mark M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E H (Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir William H
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E. (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Charles G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R.)

Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Sir WH.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt.Hon.HerbertHenry
Barlaw, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Brigg, John
Bright, Allen Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charle
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Capatin A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice,CaptEC(S Andrw'sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,SirFrancisH. (Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman- Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie,J.Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt.Hon Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E.H. (Bristol, E.)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William(Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, VincentP(Cavan,W.)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJosephF.(Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell,Edw. (Fermanagh,N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J.Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley,Rt.Hon John(Montrose
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick, (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Down, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R.Threshie (Dumfries
Richards,Thomas(W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely,Maj. J.E.B.(IsleofWight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,RtHn.C R.(Northants)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, SirA.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley,George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H.(Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, ArthurWalters(N.Dorset

Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr Causton.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax), said he wished to ask the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs if His Majesty's Government authorised the negotiations to be undertaken with the so-called Mad Mullah through an Italian intermediary; if so, how long ago was it; and what was the nature of the instructions given by the Government either to this particular Italian diplomatist. or to the Italian Government? He was rather surprised that when they were last considering this subject the noble Lord did not take the House of Commons into his confidence and tell them that these negotiations were proceeding. He thought it was rather *infra dig.* for His Majesty's Government to carry on negotiations through a third party. When they were challenged on their policy, the Government ought to have made a frank statement to the House and given the reasons for which they had taken this unusual course for bringing about a settlement. He did not challenge the result in the least. He thought it was a policy which ought to have been carried out long ago. Three times this session the representative of the Government had answered Questions on their policy in Somaliland, and yet, though he knew that these negotiations were going on, and that they had authorised an Italian officer to conduct them, he withheld these most material facts from the House of Commons. What he wanted to know was, when the Government first began these negotiations through a third party; from whom the first suggestion came; and what was the nature of the instructions given either to the Italian Government or to this particular officer that peace should be concluded on our behalf with the Mad Mullah.

*EARL PERCY said that these negotiations with the Mullah were not conducted by His Majesty's Government. The Mullah was in Italian territory, and the negotiations were carried on directly by the Italian Government through their representative in East Africa. They informed this Government last July of their intention to enter into negotiations with the Mullah, and they communicated to us some three months later the general tenor of the proposals the Mullah had made. His Majesty's Government authorised General Swayne to act in concert with the Italian officer who was on the spot. The Government understood now that the negotiations had been brought to a successful termination, and that besides signing the treaty concluded with the Italian representative, the Mullah had sent a special deputation to conclude peace at Berbera. We did not know the actual details of the arrangements made.

MR. WHITLEY: Then His Majesty's Government did not originate these negotiations?

*EARL PERCY: No.

MR. LYELL asked whether the Government had given consideration to the question of offering subsidies to the Mullah for keeping the caravan routes open?

*EARL PERCY said he did not know the actual details of the arrangement. He believed the Mullah's original proposal did contemplate some monetary guarantee.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said he had read the despatches, and had listened to the debate; but he could not ascertain what had been the policy of the Government with reference to Somaliland in the past, or what it was to be in the future. He said that as one who frankly confessed he had great sympathy with the Government in connection with Somaliland, he himself, having had considerable experience of North African tribes, recognised the difficulties the Government found themselves in. While Berbera and the adjacent country was under the India Office very little difficulty had been experienced in keeping the tribes in order. He found it stated in the Blue-book that owing to tribal and Mohammedan feeling it was inexpedient to rely on the Somalis alone:

but that little difficulty had been experienced in keeping the Mullah out of territory under the protection of this country. It was absolutely necessary, if this country was to hold Aden and to maintain its prestige, that it should also hold Berbera and occupy a position of importance with the tribes in the vicinity. The Somalis who were not to be relied on had, however, driven the Mullah out of territory under British protection on two occasions. Now the Government were back at the position they were before the recent operations were commenced. The difficulties which arose were caused by the fact that Colonel Swayne was not properly supported in the first instance. Of course, the Government were engaged elsewhere and had no definite programme as regarded Somaliland; but the Mullah could have been overwhelmed if Colonel Swayne had been supplied with sufficient forces. About that there could not be the shadow of a doubt. It was also shown in Major-General Egerton's letter that if the steps now being taken in conjunction with the Italian Government had been taken previously all the difficulties which had to be subsequently confronted would never have arisen. If was further stated that the capture or surrender of the Mullah was not the only object of the expedition. What was the other object? The only way in which the Government should have proceeded was to overwhelm the Mullah, and to give the tribes to understand that we were masters of the situation. After an expenditure of £2,500,000 the Government were now in the position they were originally. That was because the Government did not know their own policy. They deserted the policy which had been so successful in dealing with tribes in Northern India and elsewhere, and proceeded on a punitive expedition. Now this country was thrown back on the assistance of our Italian friends. He recollected hon. Members over and over again pressing the Government to do that which they were now doing; and he ventured to predict that, whenever it suited the Mullah to reappear, this country would be obliged to carry out another expedition on an even more costly scale. All who had experience of dealing with native tribes knew that there was only one of two policies to adopt—either to make them friends and pay them handsomely, or to crush them unmercifully and let them understand that we were masters of the situation. The Government had not succeeded in either one or the other. The position was a very difficult one; and he ventured to predict that ere long we should have to have another expedition on an even more costly scale.

Motion made, and Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 231; Noes, 203. (Division List No. 81.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon Sir H.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hon. A.J. (Manch'r.
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bousfield, William Robert
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J A. (Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmund
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt Hon. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliott, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants., W.
Faber, George Denison (York)

Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt Hon.SirJ.(Mancr
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon, George H.
Finlay,SirR B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,Sir RobertPenrose-
Fitzroy, Hon.EdwardAlgernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir AugustusFrederick
Gordon,Hn,J E.(Elgin& Nairn)
Gordon,MajEvans-(T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, HenryD.(Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hamilton,Marqof(L'nd'nderry)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,Arthur Howard(Hanley)
Heath,Sir James(Staffords.NW
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J F.(SheffieldBrightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,John(Kent Faversham
Hozier, Hon.JamesHenryCecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col W.
Kerr, John
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)

Lawrence,Sir Joseph(Mon'mth)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,Hon.H.L.W.(Mile End
Lawson,JohnGrant(Yorks.N.R
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,Sir Lewis(EdinburghW.
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSirH E.(Wigt'n)
Maxwell,W.J.H(Dumfriesshire)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner,Rt.Hon.Sir FrederickG.
Montagu, Hon.J.Scott(Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan,David J.(Walthamsto')
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederick Carne

Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Riley, S. Forde
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Col. Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, SirHarryS.(Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart,Sir H.(Renfrew)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,RtHnJ. Parker(Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Rt.Hon.Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm, Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.Sir C.EH(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt.Hn.Sir WilliamH.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunton)
Welby,SirCharlesG.E (Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashtonund.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood
and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,Rt. Hn. HerbertHenry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling

Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight

Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)

Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Ellice,CaptEC(S.Andrw'sBghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,Sir FrancisH.(Maidstone
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Hayden, John Partick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol,E.)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy,VincentP.(Cavan,W.)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,SirJoseph F.(Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw.(Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt Hn.John(Montrose)
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon,N)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R.Threshie(Dumfries)
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Schwann, Charles E.
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B.(Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehan, Daniel Daniel
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, Nort
Whiteley, George (York, W.R)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,Arthur Walters(N.Dorset
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. J. H. Whitley and Mr Runciman.

SUPPLY [13TH MARCH].

Resolution reported.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1905–6.

"That 129,000 officers, seamen and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, including 20,211 Royal Marines."

Resolution read a second time.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.) asked for some information upon that part of the charge upon the country which was to a certain extent involved in the Order of Council of the 1st January, 1904. He desired to get from the Civil Lord of the Admiralty a clear statement as to the Vote appended to that Order in Council. The note was as follows—

> "That it is to be understood that in any matter of great importance the First Sea Lord

is always to be consulted by the other Sea Lords and by the Parliamentary and Civil Lords."

*Mr. SPEAKER said he did see how this Question arose on this Vote, which was the Vote for men.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE admitted that if he could not move to reduce the number of men at the Admiralty, if he could only move to reduce the number of sea-going men, he would not be in order and he would not pursue the subject.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) asked why the officers in the Navy had to retire at the age of sixty years while officers in the Army had not.

*Mr. SPEAKER said that this discussion must be confined to the simple matter of the Vote.

Mr. WHITLEY said he would formally move to reduce the Vote by 100 men in order that the hon. Gentleman opposite might explain how it was that the House was now without the second portion of the Return promised by the hon. Gentleman.

*The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge) said the Return was complete and he hoped it would have been in the Vote Office by this time.

Mr. WHITLEY pointed out that if 140 or 160 ships were to be put into the llama class, which was not in being, it must affect the number of men required, and in order that they might have an opportunity of seeing whether the Return was in the Vote Office he would formally move that the Vote be reduced by 100 men if he were in order in so doing.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '129,000,' and insert '128,900'."—(*Mr. Whitley.*)

Question proposed, "That '129,000' stand part of the said Resolution."

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) thought that in view of what took place in Committee, the House ought to have been supplied before now with the second part of the Return he had asked for in connection with the redistribution of the Fleet. It immediately affected one question concerning the *personnel*. In the Memorandum of December 6th, the First Lord stated that from year to year the Admiralty had endeavoured to remedy the evil of a deficient *personnel* by largely adding to it, but that the increase in the number, size, and horse-power of the ships in commission had more than swallowed up the additions, and that consequently an adequate provision for the ships in the Fleet Reserve had not yet been made. The fact was that manning had fallen behind construction, and one purpose of the discarding of ships had been to make good the deficiency of men. What he asked for, among other things, was the numbers of the crews of the vessels discarded, and of those retained under the charge of a caretaker, so that they might know how many officers and men had been set free by this new policy.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: I can give the hon. Member the figure approximately. It is about 30,000 for the crews of all the vessels included in the Return. But this does not necessarily represent the number set free by what is referred to as the New Policy.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, continuing, said he was not responsible, as had been stated in another place, for the fact that sixteen ships appeared in both parts of the Return. He should like to know how many men were set free from the ships that were to be sold, and how many from the ships that were to be placed in the llama class. Unfortunately they could not on this occasion press for information on other subjects, such as the discrepancy in the amounts to be applied to new construction, which ought to have been given on a previous occasion.

*Mr. PRETYMAN expressed his regret that the Return was not available to Members of the House. He completed the Return yesterday, and understood it would be issued to-day, but it was not yet in the Vote Office. But in any case, the only point it would be in order to discuss on the present occasion, was that referred to by the hon. Member for Dundee with regard to the number of the crews. It was unfortunate that in the Return certain ships should appear under two headings. That had arisen from the fact that the headings under which the Return was moved for were not appropriate, and would not have afforded all the information the hon. Member desired. He therefore communicated with the hon. Member, and at his special request the ships in List 1B were included.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON pointed out that 1B was a new kind of enumeration which appeared in the Dockyard Expense Accounts this year for the first time.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said the whole misunderstanding had arisen from his desire to give the hon. Member the fullest possible information. The ships would have been left out of this class as ships not carrying crews and on which no expenditure would be incurred in respect of repairs, but he understood that the hon. Member desired them to be included in the Return.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he did not blame the hon. Gentleman for the misunderstanding, nor did he wish to be blamed himself. Speaking at Glasgow the Prime Minister stated that 130 ships would be struck off the Navy List altogether; a day or two before that speech a list of ships appeared in *The Times*, and what he wanted was a correct list.

*Mr. PRETYMAN said that since the preliminary accounts appeared in *The Times* certain adjustments had been made, and the Prime Minister distinctly stated that he did not pledge himself to the accuracy of the figures. He could not give the hon. Member detailed information with regard to the crews; he could only say that the total number in respect of all the ships included in the list was altogether 30,000. It was impossible to say exactly which ships were struck off the combatant list as a result of what was called the New Policy. There had always been the policy of removing from the Navy ships which were out-of-date and unfit for effective use, but that naturally led to a considerable waste of money, because it was the duty of the Controller of the Navy to keep in constant readiness for war every ship that might be called upon to fight. There was no half-way house. As might be seen from the Return, considerable expenditure had been incurred in quite recent times upon ships which were shortly afterwards discarded. It had therefore been thought desirable to create an intermediate class, and that was the only point in regard to which there was a new policy. By the creation of that class, it had been rendered possible to keep ships which were not fit for the first fighting line, but which were not so bad that they might not be of use under certain circumstances in case of war. Those ships were to be put aside, no crews would be provided for them or expenditure incurred upon them, and in that way undue waste of money would be avoided He could not give the number of men set free in reference to every ship; he could only state the figure approximately. The Questions asked by hon. Members opposite were perfectly reasonable, and he would be glad to answer them if he could. He would point out, however, that the comparison for which they asked was not between two concrete cases, but between what was to-day and what might have been had this policy not been adopted. To make such a comparison with accuracy was practically impossible, and, as he did not desire to give any inaccurate figures, he hoped hon. Members would be satisfied with the reply he had made and not press for anything more definite.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON asked was the total of the *personnel* for all the ships being provided for in this case and how much was attributable to ships sold and ships that were not sold?

*Mr. PRETYMAN said there was an actual reduction in the number of the *personnel* of 2,100. The reduction was partly owing to the new policy, which was not the policy for one year, but it was to be a continuous policy.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) said that last year the *personnel* was increased by 4,000 and the total *personnel* amounted to 131,000. This year there was a reduction shown of 2,000, making the total 129,000. The question he wished to put was whether that was altogether due to the new scheme. If so, then it meant that the total reduction in cost, which was shown at £2,500,000, exclusive of £1,000,000 for the Chilian ships, was really a reduction of £3,000,000, because those 2,000 men who had been cut off the pay list this year would have meant an increase in ordinary circumstances of £500,000, as only a half year's pay was voted for the increased numbers last year.

*MR. PRETYMAN: Yes, but not this year. It would mean a reduction in the future. Those 2,100, if they came on pay, would mean that amount of additional expenditure.

*MR. McCRAE said he could not follow the hon. Member's argument. He thought this reticence in itself was suspicious, and having regard to what had happened in reference to the Transvaal loan and other similar transactions it was important that they should criticise fully any financial proposals made by the Government. There were 30,000 men involved in these proposals, although many would be retained. If there was such a large number of men as that he thought the hon. Member opposite must see that the House was entitled to a little more definite information. Really he thought they ought to get, before this Vote was passed, from the hon. Gentleman some rough estimate of the difference in the cost between the new scheme and what it would have cost the country under the old scheme. The Secretary to the Admiralty told them very clearly that they were relaxing their efforts because they had been working up arrears with regard to repairs and maintenance, and economy had resulted from that. The Admiralty must know what economy had resulted from the new scheme. He could not follow the argument of the hon. Member at all.

*MR. PRETYMAN said it was difficult to define what the hon. Member meant by "economy." Where did economy begin and extra expenditure end? These comparisons were almost impossible to arrive at with any degree of accuracy. What he said was not that 30,000 men were saved, but that the whole of the crews upon Part I. of the Return was 30,000. He had nothing to conceal, and he was most anxious to give all the information asked for, but really that information did not exist.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [14TH MARCH].

Resolution reported.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1905–6.

"That a sum, not exceeding £6,672,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Expenses of Wages, etc., to Officers, Seamen and Boys, Coast Guard, and Royal Marines, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Resolution agreed to.

SUPPLY [21ST MARCH].

Resolutions reported.

CIVIL SERVICES (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1904–5.

CLASS III.

1. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other Legal Proceedings."

2. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £10, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending

on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses connected with the County Courts."

3. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £860, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Expenses of Reformatory and Industrial Schools in Ireland."

4. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £60, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Expenses of the Maintenance of Criminal Lunatics in the Dundrum Criminal Lunatic Asylum, Ireland."

CLASS IV.

5. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £9,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Expenses connected with the Relief of the National Antarctic Expedition."

CLASS V.

6. "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £54,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, in Aid of the Expenses of the British Protectorate in Somaliland."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution.

MR. LAMBERT (Devonshire, South Molton) said he desired to call attention to the action of the Treasury with regard to the refunding of the costs incurred in the prosecution of the late Mr. Whitaker Wright. When this Vote came up a few days ago the matter was allowed to slide, because Members desired to discuss the case of Adolf Beck. The House would, however, do well to listen to a short account of the action of the Treasury in departing from their promise that the costs of those engaged in getting up this prosecution should be paid. He had the privilege of first bringing this matter before the House on the Address. The Attorney-General on that occasion worked himself up into a state of forensic fury, banged the Table, and made it appear that all sorts of insinuations were made against his honour. No such insinuations were made, but it had to be admitted that the Attorney-General was guilty of an error of judgment. Had it been left to the Attorney-General this criminal would have escaped. It was solely due to Mr. John Flower—a gentleman of the highest honour and well known in the City, who had suffered severely—that justice and the law were vindicated. He thought the Treasury had behaved with great meanness towards Mr. Flower, whose task was made doubly difficult by the debate which took place in the House, in the course of which the Solicitor-General stated that a man could not be prosecuted for issuing a fraudulent balance-sheet, an opinion silently acquiesced in by the Attorney-General.

THE SOLICITOR-GENERAL (Sir EDWARD CARSON (Dublin University): The hon. Member misrepresents me. I said you cannot prosecute a man unless the fraudulent balance-sheet is issued with intent to defraud.

MR. LAMBERT: The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "Will anyone say you can prosecute a man for issuing a false balance-sheet?"

The Law Officers gave that as their opinion, and that had the effect of deterring the public outside, and it made the task of Mr. Flower and his coadjutors doubly difficult. Mr. Flower, at great cost, performed a great public service in bringing a criminal to justice. Mr. Flower had been the means of vindicating the British law. He did not ask that Mr. Flower should be recouped for any public service he had rendered—although he had rendered a great public service to the commercial community—but that he should be recouped his actual out-of-pocket expenses in the matter. A vouched account had been sent to the Treasury for £518, and he thought the House would be surprised to learn that the Treasury proposed to pay only £18.

Of course Mr. Flower, being an honourable man, flung the Treasury cheque into their face. To send him a cheque for £18 was like accusing him of being a rascal as fraudulent as Whitaker Wright. That was quite contrary to the promise which was given to the House by the Home Secretary in 1904, when he said that the Government would repay the costs of the prosecution of Whitaker Wright. The Law Officers refused to prosecute, and, of course, costs were incurred by Mr. Flower in getting up the public subscription which amounted to £2,000. It was only because that public subscription was got up that the prosecution committee were able to pay into Court the amount ordered by Mr. Justice Buckley. He thought the Secretary of the Treasury would see that but for the incurring of expense for verifying documents and getting transcripts of the company's reports, it would have been impossible for a man so to move the public as to subscribe £2,000. It was impossible for any man to get up a public subscription for such a purpose without first bringing the public to understand the enormity of the frauds perpetrated and the guilt of the person who had committed them. It was due absolutely and entirely to Mr. Flower's previous expenditure of £518 that the £2,000 was got together, and if that sum had not been got together Mr. Whitaker Wright would have been loose to-day enjoying his ill-gotten gains. The Secretary of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer had behaved with incredible meanness to a man who had performed a very great public service. A rather interesting correspondence took place between Mr. Arnold White and the Attorney-General. Mr. White, believing that the Attorney-General had committed a slight error of judgment, and that the hon. and learned Gentleman's services were well remunerated by the State, thought he might like to subscribe to the fund to recoup Mr. Flower. In a letter dated May 7th, 1904, which Mr. White wrote to the Attorney-General, he pointed out that the Solicitor-General had indicated the opinion in a debate in the House of Commons that a man could not be prosecuted for publishing a false balance-sheet.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: I say the same now.

MR. LAMBERT said Whitaker Wright was prosecuted and convicted. After all was said and done there must be a mistake somewhere. He was not a lawyer, and he had no legal knowledge at all, but here was a case where the Attorney-General and the Solicitor-General said there was no case, and through the action of Mr. Flower Mr. Whitaker Wright was brought before a Judge and jury and convicted, and they knew the tragic dénouement. He was sorry that the Attorney-General had not yet become a subscriber to the fund, but after the debate he might become a slight contributor to it. In this matter the Treasury might say that Mr. Flower's expenses were not exactly legal expenses. No doubt they were not, but they were genuinely incurred by him in getting up the subscription. The prosecution committee had to fight enormous influences. Great wealth was most unscrupulously used, and if it had not been that the prosecution committee, even after the judgment of Mr. Justice Buckley, engaged counsel to appear at the trial there might have been a miscarriage of justice. The prosecution committee had only been able to return to the subscribers 16s. 8d. in the £1. That was through the Treasury refusing to allow more.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): I was a subscriber and I have not got anything.

MR. LAMBERT said the hon. Baronet knew about this better than he did himself, but the statement he had made was according to his information. It appeared that the hon. Baronet had not got his share of the swag. The Treasury ought to recoup the prosecution committee and Mr. Flower the whole of their out-of-pocket expenses which were incurred honestly and in a *bona fide* manner. They had not put a single shilling in their own pockets. It had been suggested that Mr. Flower should be recouped out of the prosecution fund, but he was an honourable man and would not listen to that suggestion. The hon. Member moved a reduction of the Vote by £100, as a protest against the niggardly action of the Treasury in this matter.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£12,000,' and insert '£11,900.'" —(*Mr. Lambert.*)

Question proposed, "That '£12,000' stand part of the said Resolution."

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.) said he regretted that this question had been raised because it involved a certain amount of detail which he had hoped it might not have been necessary to discuss. He did not complain of the way in which the matter had been presented to the House by the hon. Member opposite. The total amount of expenses claimed by Mr. Flower was £582, and, without going through all the details, he might give two or three examples of the charges to show how the Treasury was justified in the course taken. The biggest item was for rent of premises £200. He understood that Mr. Flower occupied premises in Angel Court from June, 1901, to June, 1903, and carried on his stock-broking business there—was in fact doing so at the present time. He was credibly informed that no use whatever was made of those premises, and that on no single occasion did the prosecution committee meet there. He did not think that item could in any way be said to form part of the expense of prosecuting Mr. Whitaker Wright, and he thought that the Treasury were justified in striking that out. There were other smaller items, such as shorthand notes, advertisements, circularising shareholders, etc., nearly all of which were not only prior to the Attorney-General's decision, but also prior to the winding up order of 31st October, 1901. Those were matters, again, which could not, in any shape or form, be considered to be connected with the prosecution. There was a charge for newspaper articles, in July, 1901, and February, 1902. These had been carefully examined by competent advisers, who decided, after investigation, that they had nothing whatever to do with the case. The same was to be said about certain charges for circularising shareholders, and for solicitor's fees which, in the view of his legal advisers, had nothing to do with the prosecution of Whitaker Wright. He hoped that no charge of meanness would be directed against the Treasury, who had acted fairly according to the decision the Government had arrived at, and had handed over the taxed costs and the still further sum which, after most careful consideration, they had decided might properly be attributed to the cost of the prosecution. He regretted to have been compelled to go into these details of a case which every one wished to be closed. The Treasury had taken the broadest and most liberal view they could, and he believed that an impartial observer would say that they had erred rather on the side of liberality than of meanness.

SIR ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said that he knew that his hon. friend had investigated and dealt with this case with a single-minded desire to see justice done if he thought that there might have been a miscarriage of justice. He did not understand that his hon. friend disputed the statements made by the Secretary to the Treasury. He hoped the hon. Member would not much differ from him when he expressed the opinion that some of the items mentioned by the Secretary to the Treasury ought not to have been paid to Mr. Flower, and he hoped would not be paid. Take, for example, apart from the taxed costs, the claims made for private expenses by Mr. Flower in trying to get up the prosecution. For two years he charged the whole rent of his own office where he carried on his own business.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I would not like to say it is the whole rent.

MR. LAMBERT said that Mr. Flower's statement was that he found it would be useless to get up an agitation among themselves, and accordingly he took an office specially for the purpose of attending to this matter; and for two years he had used this office almost exclusively for the purpose of the London and Globe affairs. The rent came to £200. Mr. Flower was then a bankrupt, through the collapse of the London and Globe

Company, and therefore he could not engage in stockbroking business.

SIR ROBERT REID said he had never heard that any gentleman who asked for the costs of a prosecution should include in these the rent of an office for two years. It seemed to him absurd and incredible that a man should take an office at a rent of £200 a year in order to circularise shareholders. He might be allowed to say a word or two about this case, although he did not want to re-open the whole matter. In former times there used to be constant complaints made against the Attorney-General of the day for pressing prosecutions against private persons; but for a hundred years no such case of harshness or cruelty in the matter of prosecutions against private parties had been levelled against the Attorney-General or the Law Officers of the Crown. The institution of criminal proceedings was a most serious and grave matter, and if it had to be done, it ought to be done without pressure from persons who knew nothing of the affair. He did not think the House of Commons, except in very extreme cases, ought ever to be appealed to to put pressure on the Attorney-General to institute such proceedings. He thought that it was a most dangerous thing that hon. Gentlemen who had not taken the smallest trouble to ascertain the facts should endeavour to bring pressure on the Law Officers in such a matter. He said that because it was the first occasion on which such pressure had been exercised, and he would certainly oppose it.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said, as one who supported the hon. Gentleman opposite when he brought forward his Motion for the prosecution of Mr. Whitaker Wright, he might be allowed to add a ew remarks. He disagreed with the decision of the Attorney-General in the matter, but so ar from that decision having acted badly he thought, on the contrary, that it had induced many people to subscribe. For his own part, it had induced him to subscribe because, rightly or wrongly, he thought there had been a miscarriage of justice. He quite agreed that no pressure should be put on the Law Officers of the Crown in such cases; but this was a very exceptional case. Nine people out of ten in the City knew all about it and understood it. It was one of the largest and most prominent cases that there had been for years; and was the exception which proved the rule. He did not think, however, that Mr. Flower was injured by the action which was adopted by the Law Officers, and did not consider that Mr. Flower could expect that the Treasury should pay more than the actual cost of the action and a sufficient sum for what was known as costs between solicitor and client. That was all that could be expected. He himself subscribed under the impression that he would not receive anything back in any event. The right hon. Gentleman stated that Mr. Flower was a bankrupt. He was no longer a member of the Stock Exchange; but he was carrying on the business of an outside broker, which he still continued. He agreed that Mr. Flower had succeeded in performing a great public service; it was true that he had lost a great deal of money; but it was not a very wise proceeding to enter into large transactions with Mr. Whitaker Wright with the knowledge that he was incurring a very considerable risk. On the whole he thought that the Government had done the right thing.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT (Islington, S.) said, as one who supported the hon. Gentleman opposite when he originally brought his Motion before the House, he felt bound to express the same views now, but he concurred with the Ex-Attorney-General that no undue pressure ought to be put on the House to institute prosecutions. He also agreed with the late Attorney-General, who stated that the case was an extremely difficult one. But it was the extreme and exceptional case, and one involving the gravest doubt as to whether a prosecution would succeed or not. Judges differed, and the Law Officers were doubtful. There was, of course, no question regarding the *bona fides* of the Law Officers. Others, however, adopted a different view from theirs, and felt on public grounds that in order to prevent similar gigantic frauds in the future there should at least be a magisterial investigation, and if there were a committal that the trial should proceed. What happened? A man with comparatively little means took all the risk of vindicating the public interest, and deterring as far as possible the recurrence of frauds which had victimised a large number of ignorant and simple people. The risk was great; but the prosecution was justified by the result. The case being extremely exceptional it was right that the treatment of it now should be fairly liberal, especially in connection with the persons who had taken such a large responsibility in the interests of public and commercial morality. It was essentially a case for reasonable consideration and liberal treatment. When he had heard it stated that Mr. Flower had used his own office for the purposes of the prosecution, he thought that his claim in that connection was quite baseless. But it was entirely different when it was shown that a separate office had been necessarily engaged for the purposes of the prosecution. In a prosecution of this kind the documents were voluminous, and conferences were almost innumerable, and a £100 a year for two years for an office in the City was not unreasonable. If Mr. Flower used his own office it would be inconvenient to him, and would also produce an impression of personal interest and advertisement. But when a man took the necessary steps and accepted responsibility, and had succeeded in rendering a great public service, and had shown that people, and especially the poor, could not be plundered with impunity by men who had not the courage of the highwayman, he was entitled to reasonable and proper treatment. He would ask the Treasury not to deal meanly with this matter and not simply to repay the merely taxed costs. He hoped the Government would reconsider the question from a higher and wider and more public stand-point.

Mr. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside) expressed the opinion that this discussion should not come to an end without some further explanation from the Law Officers of the Crown of their action in the matter. Those who brought this case forward recently had expressed a desire to bury and get rid of a deplorable transaction which they had no wish to revive. They had chosen, he thought, a strange way of attaining their desire, but the case having been raised the whole matter ought to be thoroughly cleared up and some explanation given to the public of the action of the Law Officers of the Crown. He said this in no spirit of hostility to the hon. and learned Gentlemen, nor did he complain of the extent to which they were remunerated, as in his opinion it was not excessive. Two years previously, when this question was first raised, there was considerable feeling on the part of the public that the Law Officers of the Crown had been neglectful of their duty in this respect. Feeling ran so high that the Government was at one time in some jeopardy when the debate on the Address took place. At that time the Solicitor-General said that in the present state of the law it was impossible to institute a prosecution, and that it must be made the subject of future legislation. It afterwards transpired that a prosecution could and did lie—and that prosecution was carried to a successful issue without any need for extra legislation. The point insisted upon by the hon. Member for Islington on the last occasion should be borne in mind, namely, that the object of the Government was not to obtain convictions but to obtain the truth. It seemed to him that there was a fear among the officials of the Treasury lest a prosecution when undertaken should be unsuccessful and bring discredit to the Department, but he thought wherever there appeared to be a *prima facie* case it should be probed to the bottom in a Criminal Court, and if the prosecution failed blame should attach to no one. The officials of the Treasury seemed to be falling into the spirit of French law in this respect. The spirit of French law as understood in this country was a spirit of competition in the endeavour to secure the greatest number of convictions. He hoped any such spirit as that would be entirely purged from the office of the Public Prosecutor. A good deal had been said as to the object of the private individuals who instituted this prosecution which in his opinion was very wide of the mark, and he ventured to think that those expenses which had been incurred by them which they could not recover by any other means ought to be repaid them.

At the same time it was a curious way to vindicate their rights to move a reduction, which Motion, if it were successful, would deprive these people of some modicum of the amount they ought to obtain. He should vote against the reduction.

Sir EDWARD CARSON said he was loth to occupy the time of the House in again discussing this matter. He did not very much mind the attacks made upon himself because, so far as he was concerned, he was perfectly conscious that the words he had uttered in a previous debate were words well considered and honestly stated in the House and words to which he still adhered. One matter which he had stated had been, over and over again, under a misapprehension, quoted against him as if he had acted erroneously in the advice he gave to the House. He had asked what evidence was sufficient for the purpose of instituting a prosecution. Suppose it was admitted that a balance-sheet was fraudulent, was that sufficient evidence on which to institute a prosecution. In so doing he was quoting almost the very words of Chief Justice Cockburn in a very important case, and the whole meaning of what he said was that they must be able to show that particular intentions of defrauding and deceiving, which were mentioned in the Act of Parliament, existed before they could bring the person against whom the charges were alleged within the statute. That was exactly what Lord Chief Justice Cockburn pointed out in the famous case already referred to by the Attorney-General, and he did not believe that any lawyer would dispute what he had put forward as necessary ingredients of a prosecution. When the matter was before them—and it was under discussion not for a few minutes or hours, but for days, between the Attorney-General, himself, and other counsel engaged in the case—they were of opinion that the materials submitted to them did not show the particular intent which it was necessary to prove before it could come within the statute. They might have been right or wrong in regard to that. The particular matter in reference to which he had been over and over again attacked, was not a question of fact, but that he gave wrong advice on the point of law. Whether the Law Officers were right or wrong in their judgment, it was certainly not from inadvertence, because it was a case in which from day to day they were bound to give the utmost consideration to the materials from time to time placed before them. But nothing rendered more difficult the discharge of the duty the Law Officers had to perform than that, at the time they were discussing a matter of vital importance to an individual fellow-subject against whom there was an outcry at the moment, there should be raised another outcry for the purpose of urging the Law Officers to take a particular course.

He had risen not so much in consequence of the attack upon himself, as he had already explained his position, but to protest against the observation of an hon. Member who had just spoken that the duty of the Law Officers was to set investigations on foot. Were they, because there was an outcry or a case suggested by a layman against an individual, to set an investigation on foot unless they believed there was a *prima facie* case against the person accused ? Certainly not. That was no part of their duty. If they accepted the principle that the country ought to be satisfied by an investigation, they might, in the case of an innocent man against whom a false or erroneous case had been set up in the minds of the public, by a criminal process put him in the dock, while all the time there was really no case whatever in the legal sense against him. That was exactly what the legal officers ought to guard against. Whatever might be the outcry or whatever outsiders might think of the guilt or innocence of the individual, the Law Officers were bound, whether it was popular or unpopular, whether their decision was satisfactory or unsatisfactory, to exercise their judgment and discretion as to whether a *prima facie* case had been laid before them. If exercising their judgment with the best of their ability, standing between the subject and his accusers, they came to a wrong conclusion, all he could say as a Law Officer was that he would rather act on his opinion, even if that opinion were wrong, where the results might be such as they were in the case of Whitaker Wright, and know that he had acted upon his own judgment, than give way for a moment to popular demand or any other exigency, and have it upon his conscience that he had not acted upon a judgment which he himself had formed. That was the sole duty of the Law Officers, and certainly so long as he had the honour to hold his position, even if he were accused afterwards of coming to an erroneous decision, and held up to ridicule within the House of Commons for legal propositions for which at all events he had the high sanction of Lord Chief Justice Cockburn, he would adopt the course he had followed in the past. Nobody could avoid being accused of making mistakes, but who was to judge whether mistakes were really made in these difficult questions he did not know. At all events he was certain of this—that he would best discharge the duties cast upon him by acting upon his own judgment after mature consideration of the facts that were laid before him.

*SIR ALBERT ROLLIT said that he had never suggested or thought of suggesting that in the absence of a *prima facie* case there ought to be even a magisterial investigation.

MR. J. F. HOPE associated himself with the remarks of the hon. Member for South Islington.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) reminded the House that on a former occasion the Solicitor-General declared that he never apologised, even for a mistake.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: I did not say that I never apologised. If I were rude to the hon. Member I would apologise. What I said was that I had nothing to apologise for in this case.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said there was a mistake at any rate for which he might apologise, because on a former occasion the right hon. and learned Gentleman used these words—

> "It is said that Whitaker Wright published a false balance-sheet. I believe he did. I think it is admitted that this was done. But will any one get up and say that a man can be prosecuted because he published a false balance-sheet?"

Every Member of the House would get up and say it now, and they were justified in saying so by Mr. Justice Buckley and the result of the Whitaker Wright trial. On that occasion, to escape defeat, the Prime Minister promised that the law should be immediately amended, but the pledge had never been carried out. The right hon. and learned Gentleman owed an apology to those Members who pointed out the section in the Criminal Law Amendment Act under which Whitaker Wright was prosecuted to conviction, and under the authority of which Mr. Justice Buckley allowed the prosecution to issue. At Question-time to-day the Attorney-General declared there was full opportunity of discussing this case in the debate on the Address in 1904. This was a matter to which the House should give its attention. In 1903 an Amendment to the Address with reference to the non-prosecution of Whitaker Wright was actually proposed and discussed, and the Government escaped defeat by giving a pledge to amend the law which had never been fulfilled. Such pledges seemed to be an easy way with the present Government of escaping out of difficulties.

SIR EDWARD CARSON: A measure was introduced on the lines indicated, and it was blocked from the hon. Member's side of the House.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said the Government could have passed it in the same way as the Licensing Bill, but they did not want to pass it. He was really rejoiced at the sweet reasonableness of the constitutional doctrine of the right hon. Gentleman that he would not prosecute if there was any legal fault in the matter, and the prosecution must be a matter of certainty. The righ hon. Gentleman was, of course, never in the Coercion Courts in Ireland in his life. Why there had never been such a conversion since the time of St. Paul. A mistake was made by the Law Officers of the Crown which ought not to have been made by officials who received between them £75,000 a year. There was, in his opinion, a suspicious element in this Whitaker Wright case, and he would do his best to prevent in England the methods of prosecution which prevailed in Ireland.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 247; Noes, 158. (Division List No. 82.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, AugustusHenryEden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. JoscelineFitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J.(Manch'r
Balfour,Rt.HnGeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, Lt.-Col.H.F. (Middl'sx)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C.W(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Chas. William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlayne, T.(S'thampton)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C.R.
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hn. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt.Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hn. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson,Rt.Hn.Sir J.(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hn. E. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson,Sir AugustusFrederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,Maj.Evans (T'rH'mlets
Gorst, Rt Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. GeorgeJoachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of (L'nd'nde'ry
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath,ArthurHoward (Hanley)
Heath, Sir Jas.(Staffords.N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside)
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N. R.)
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col.W
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Law, AndrewBonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence,Sir Joseph(Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,Hn. H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson, John G. (Yorks. N.R.)
Lee, Arthur H. (HantsFareham
Leese, Sir Joseph F(Accrington
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter(Bristol,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,Sir Lewis (EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Mawell,Rt.Hn.SirH.E.(Wigt'n)
Maxwell, W. J. H.(Dumfriessh.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, RtHn. Sir Fredk. G.
Mitchell, Ed. (Fermanagh, N.)
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike(Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Reid, Sir R.Threshie(Dumfries)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James

Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Rt Hn. J. Parker (Lanarks
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hn. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Ed. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt. Col. A. C. E (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk, Mid)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES, Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellice, Capt E. C. (S Andrw's Bghs
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydv'l
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Kean, John
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Jas. F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N(
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Scott, Chas. Prestwich (Leigh)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North

Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wood, James
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES, Mr. Lambert and Mr. Soares.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, Further Consideration of the Resolution stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

Further Consideration of Second Resolution deferred till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

SUPPLY [21ST MARCH] REPORT.

Order read, for Further Consideration of First Resolution, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £12,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Departments of the Solicitor for the Affairs of His Majesty's Treasury, King's Proctor, and Director of Public Prosecutions, the Cost of Prosecutions, and other Legal Proceedings."

Resolution further considered.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

*MR. CRIPPS (Lancashire, Stretford) expressed a desire to call attention to what, to his mind, was a very important consideration involved in the Report of the Committee which investigated the Adolf Beck case. He did not propose to deal with the question of remuneration so far as Adolf Beck was concerned, because there were much wider considerations which affected the administration of the criminal law in this country. The Committee found that there had been a deplorable failure of justice. It was suggested by a late Home Secretary, the right hon. Member for Fife, that this deplorable failure of justice had only arisen under exceptional conditions which were not likely to recur, but which did occur in the case of Adolf Beck. He was not satisfied with that. Speaking from his experience as a deputy chairman of quarter sessions, he was not satisfied that in all the criminal cases he had tried a just decision had been given. There were cases in our criminal jurisdiction where the conviction was not satisfactory and where the decision of the Judge ought to be reviewed by another Court. Not only was there a deplorable failure of justice in this case but—and he entirely agreed with the Committee, and differed from the right hon. Member for Fife and the present Home Secretary in that respect—there was a deplorable failure on the part of the Home Office to perform what was their duty at the present time under the existing system of the administration of criminal law. He agreed that the Home Office was not a Court for the review of criminal procedure on questions of fact. If questions of fact were to be reconsidered they must be reconsidered before a judicial body, and ought to be so considered and not relegated to a mere administrative body which had no machinery for retrial. He agreed with all that was found in the Report of the Committee—whose recommendations would be carried out in a Bill which was being introduced in another place—that no blame was to be attached either to the police or to the Public Prosecutor, and that the failure arose in the first instance in the proceedings before the Judge, and in the second, in the failure of the Home Office to take the necessary steps when certain information came to their hand to put right, not only what was a deplorable failure of justice, but which ought to have been recognised by them as a great mistake when the papers were put before them.

So far as the trial was concerned, he thought the matter was put right by the recommendations of the Committee. The case was put by them as one of mistaken identity, and if the learned Judge had admitted certain evidence, which he did not admit, the case would have not proceeded further. In his opinion, however, the Report of the Committee did not go far enough. It did go to the extent that if a similar case arose there would be an opportunity of bringing it before the Court when it sat as a Crown Court to consider points of law in criminal cases. The Judges had assented in recent years more readily than in olden times to state a case on disputed law, in order that there might be authoritative decisions. There could be no greater injustice than that there should be a risk that a man might be convicted owing to a mistake on the part of the presiding Judge. He did not wish to make a personal attack on any one, but it was obvious that there was plenty of room for a mistake to take place, and they ought to take every security that if such a mistake was made the person charged did not suffer from it.

A more important point in the Committee's Report was with regard to the conduct of the Home Office. He had no desire to cast aspersions on permanent officials who could not defend themselves in the House, but he did find fault with the system which allowed such a remarkable failure of justice to take place, when it ought to have been put right in the earlier stages of the proceedings, and the irredeemable wrong which had been done to Adolf Beck prevented. After the trial, evidence came to the Home Office to show that Beck could not be the same person as the criminal Smith, who had been tried and convicted on a former occasion, and the House must remember that both at the trial and in the conviction in Beck's case much turned on the assumption that Smith and Beck were one and the same person. The Home Office had in their hands what appeared to him to be irrefutable evidence of the non-identity of Smith and Beck. He had seen the two documents which were said to be identical, but, from his point of view, it was really impossible to say that they were identical when once closely examined. That, also, was the view of the Committee. In addition to that, there were the marks of identification which could not be gainsaid; and owing to the nationality of Smith it was utterly impossible that Smith and Beck could be the same person. Therefore, the Home Office had within their own archives irrefutable evidence that a main point on which the conviction was founded did not exist in fact.

Under those circumstances, what was the duty of the Home Office? He did not say for a moment that the Home Office ought to be looked upon as a Court of criminal review. Its duty was, if subsequent evidence came to their notice that a particular conviction had been wrongly brought about, and that the conditions on which that conviction was based did not exist in fact, to see that the criminal was pardoned and released and not left in prison for a long time and under the conditions in which Beck was left. He would go a step further. The Home Office gave it in evidence that they wrote to the presiding Judge, Sir Forrest Fulton, the Recorder of London; but it was quite clear that, in that communication to the Judge, they did not bring to his mind that one of the conditions under which Beck was convicted was false in fact. It was for that reason that the Judge wrote back that he was satisfied that the conviction was right. In exercising the prerogative of pardon the Home Office should bring the true bearings of the facts within their knowledge to the notice of the Judge. The Committee did not go one iota too far in their strictures upon the Home Office. They pointed out that the Home Office had failed, with a knowledge of all the facts, to take such steps as would have allowed immediate reparation to be done to Beck. He would not attempt to trace out where the fault lay; but the facts clearly showed that, as regarded the extremely important duty of the exercise of the prerogative of pardon, the Home Office was not sufficiently well-manned. Full notice and knowledge of the facts were brought to the Home Office, and apparently they went as far as the permanent Under-Secretary. He agreed with what was said by a late Home Secretary that in a serious matter of this kind the facts should be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State himself; but in the Beck case nothing of the kind was done. The inference which the Committee drew was that, looking to the very important function which ought to be discharged by the Home Office in exercising the prerogative of pardon, the Home Office was inadequately manned. If that were so in the Beck case, it aroused suspicions in reference to other cases less clear. He had the strongest view that every criminal, convicted under whatever conditions, had a right to have his case investigated by the Home Office—not as a court of criminal review, but so fully investigated as to give an effective result in order to remedy what the Committee in the Beck case called a "deplorable failure of justice." Nobody with a knowledge of criminal prosecution would be satisfied that the Home Office had sufficient effective machinery for the investigation of such cases, and it was a duty worthy of this House to provide precautions, so far as was humanly possible, to protect an innocent man from conviction. What was borne in upon him was that, unless the Home Office were sufficiently manned so as to give effective consideration, not only to such extreme cases as Beck's, but to ordinary cases, our whole system of criminal jurisdiction in this country could not be regarded as satisfactory.

He admitted that all questions of criminal appeal were full of difficulty; but the difficulty ought to be faced. He thought they were very much indebted to the labours of the Committee which considered the Beck case. It was no small matter to ask one of the hardest worked Judges in this country to curtail his holidays in order to deal with a complicated question of this kind. Anyone who had read the Report carefully could see that it was not only a masterly analysis of the facts, but that this great Judge brought his experience to bear on the only practical remedy apart from a general revision of the judicial system of the country. He hoped this case would not be forgotten in one respect. He hoped the House would not lose sight of the fact that injustice of this kind could occur; or believe that this was an isolated case. He himself did not believe it was an isolated case; and he hoped the result would be that the Home Office system would be made more effective and that means would be provided by which criminal trials could be reviewed in order to render impossible, as far as human ingenuity could provide, such an act of injustice.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.) said he agreed with his hon. and learned friend that such an act of injustice as had occurred should, if at all possible, be not allowed to recur. Undoubtedly this was not an isolated case. It, however, appeared to be assumed that Mr. Beck was convicted as Smith, who had been found guilty of similar crimes in 1877; and it was suggested by his hon. and learned friend that when it was discovered that Mr. Beck was not Smith, the Home Office was to blame for not taking action. He did not agree. One of the difficulties of the case was that Smith was kept out of the trial altogether. That was a very important point in our criminal law. It was a rule which existed in England, and which did not exist elsewhere, that it was no reason to suppose because A. B. committed a certain crime previously that therefore he had committed a similar crime now being tried. That was not admitted in English law. It was admitted in foreign countries. In France, for instance, there was always the presumption if A. B. had been convicted of a certain crime and was being tried for a similar crime that he was guilty. The Judge in this case refused to accept any proof as to the crimes committed in 1877. If that were understood, he did not see how the Home Office could have acted otherwise than it did. He, however, could not understand why the Home Office labelled Mr. Beck as Smith, and why they should assume that a man who had been tried without any reference to Smith was the person who had committed similar crimes in 1877. The evidence was erroneous, of course, but undoubtedly strong. There was evidence as regarded handwriting; but in his magisterial experience he never allowed handwriting to be taken into account. It was the most unsatisfactory form of evidence possible. There was, however, other evidence. All the women swore to the identity of this particular man; other witnesses were doubtful, and no evidence was offered that he was not the man. There was no *alibi*. There was nothing to guide the unfortunate jury—to every member of which he believed the case must have caused much pain and trouble for having convicted this man. He was afraid that they could not prevent things of this kind occurring occasionally; and he did not believe that even a Court of Criminal Appeal would be able to prevent them. The Court of Criminal

Appeal would have had before it the same evidence, and the same verdict which had been returned, and on that evidence he did not see how any other verdict could be returned. Personally he agreed with the Committee that it was not desirable that there should be a Court of Criminal Appeal. In the first place, there would have to be a limited time during which appeals could be made, and consequently only the same evidence would be available. Secondly; there would always be a difficulty in getting witnesses for the prisoner to come forward, from the fact that he had been previously convicted; and thirdly, as the power to revise sentences must almost necessarily include the power to increase them, there would be the risk of the prisoner's sentence being increased. He doubted whether the power to take cases up to the Court of Crown Cases Reserved would have any material effect in preventing miscarriages of justice. But what he wished to point out was that the original trial was the simple issue of whether Mr. Beck was the person who did certain acts on certain days, and the mere fact that he was not the man who committed other crimes of a similar nature was not such a discovery as necessarily to put everybody upon inquiry as to whether he did commit the crimes for which he was sentenced. For these reasons it appeared to him that there was no special blame to be attached to the Home Office.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) said it appeared from the remarks of hon. Gentlemen of exceptional experience in these matters that a great many more miscarriages of justice occurred than the public usually supposed. If that were so, the public did not hear either of the cases of mitigation of sentences or reversal of convictions, and that was a singular testimony to the fact that the existing system did admit of ultimate justice being done where mistakes unhappily occurred. In this particular case he did not think there was any reason to indulge in excessive alarm or apprehension as to the likelihood of the repetition of so unfortunate a mistake. There had not been proved any vindictive action on the part of the police, nor had there been shown that confusion which sometimes existed elsewhere between inquisitorial or executive functions and judicial functions. There had been no looking for promotion or increase of emolument based on the number of convictions obtained. That was one of the dangers which had to be guarded against in all criminal systems, and it was satisfactory that it had not been found in practice to obtain. A defect which had been shown to exist was the absence of a system of interchangeability of knowledge or records. The Prisons Department appeared to have had knowledge which the police had not, and possibly both were aware of facts of which the Home Office was ignorant. The Committee had most properly drawn attention to that point, and doubtless some arrangement would be made to remedy the defect in future.

But the most important matter of all was the function of the Home Office in the matter. Here, he thought, was the principal danger they had to guard against. It appeared that a gentleman at the Home Office wrote to the Judge asking whether his mind had been changed by the emergence of particular facts, and when the Judge replied that he could not change his mind on a mere supposition, he did not write back to say it was not a supposition but an actual fact proved by materials in the possession of the Home Office. There was a danger in that indifference. He associated himself with all that was said in the last debate with regard to the Home Office staff. The Home Office was manned by gentlemen of exceptional ability, and in this case there was no bad influence at work except the tendency which existed in all public offices to regard in too high a degree the sanctity of the judiciary. There seemed to be the impression that a Judge must not be troubled. Much as the judiciary of this country was admired, it had to be remembered that they treated the Executive with scant respect when the Executive came under review before them; and that whenever they got the opportunity they treated the legislative body with no respect whatever. Judges existed to be troubled if and when there was any suspicion that a miscarriage of justice had taken place, and they should be troubled not once or twice, but a dozen times if necessary. If that had been done in this case the mistake would probably have been rectified.

How were such mistakes to be prevented in future? The Committee suggested that something more in the way of legal knowledge was necessary. Legal knowledge alone was not sufficient; knowledge of the laws of evidence was not sufficient. What was wanted was practical experience in the application of the law in actual cases. He was once told—he did not know whether it was still the case—that candidates for the Indian Civil Service, who, if successful, had to discharge duties partly administrative and partly judicial, had, as part of their examination and qualification, to attend at British Courts of Justice and take notes of a certain number of defended cases, and the notes so taken were given in as part of the test of their efficiency. He thought that in that practice there was the germ of the kind of preparation which might be brought in for some portions of the Civil Service. It was fallacious to suppose that the same tests were equally appropriate to all branches of the service. Whereas in the Treasury men of financial ability were required, in the Home Office those qualities which fitted a man, not only for administrative, but also for judicial duties were necessary. He believed that something of that kind was required. Nobody regretted more than he did the lamentable miscarriage of justice that took place in this case, but he did not think there was any occasion for panic.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. COCHRANE, Ayrshire, N.) said he thought that his hon. and learned friend the Member for Stretford had been a little bit harsh in dealing with some of the officials of the Home Office. His hon. and learned friend was of opinion that the discovery that Smith was a Jew, and that Beck was not, should have convinced them, not only that Smith and Beck were different persons, but that Beck was innocent. He had also thrown a great deal of cold water upon the value of handwriting evidence and the evidence of handwriting experts. It appeared to him that that was the key to the position. The moment it was brought to the attention of the Home Office that there was a probability that Beck and Smith were not the same persons, that Smith was a Jew and that Beck was not, they at once made inquiries and found that that was the fact. It was discovered that Beck and Smith were not the same person; but, of course, they had then to go back upon the handwriting, and the whole case rested upon the similarity of the handwriting. It was said that if the writer of the letter in 1877 was the same as the writer in 1896, and if Beck could not have been in that particular country at that time because he was in Peru, therefore Beck could not have been the person who committed the crime. Therefore, his hon. and learned friend brought them back to the handwriting. The Committee said, "Look at these documents; any man in the street could see that they were in the same handwriting." It was notorious to hon. Members and to his hon. and learned friend that there was nothing more misleading than expert evidence in regard to handwriting. He did not think there was any blame whatever to be attached to those who preferred to accept the direct evidence of ten witnesses—he believed there were more witnesses willing to come forward and give similar evidence—who came into the witness box and said, "That is the man who committed the fraud." No doubt his hon. and learned friend himself would admit that in ninety-nine cases out of 100 he would prefer the direct identification of ten witnesses to any amount of documentary evidence as to the similarity of handwriting. Perhaps he might be allowed to look back at the history of the case. In 1877 these frauds began. How was Smith convicted? Exactly as Beck was convicted in 1896. He was convicted on the same documents and the same direct evidence and handwriting; and who doubted that Smith was guilty? Smith admitted himself that in 1877 he was guilty, although he did not admit that he was guilty in 1896.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): Does the hon. Gentleman know that the closure falls at ten o'clock, and that not a word has been said on this side of the House?

MR. COCHRANE said he had no desire to stand in the way of hon. Members opposite, but he wished to point out that the Judge, in his letter, said that it did not matter whether Beck and Smith were the same person or different persons, and that he was satisfied on the evidence that came before him that Beck was the guilty person. In the circumstances he thought that less than justice had been done to the officials of the Home Office. It was extremely hard to pass censure upon a board of officials who had not had an opportunity of being heard. Let him add that he did not think there existed a more zealous, painstaking——

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Oh, yes. Agreed, agreed.

MR. COCHRANE said he thought the hon. Member for South Donegal was a little ungracious in his interruptions. These officials had no opportunity of being heard before the Committee, and it was very hard on them that they should be so severely censured. To censure these officials in such a harsh manner was a very serious matter indeed. He felt that extremely keenly, and the generous speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Fife was of quite a different tone to the interruptions of hon. Gentlemen opposite. He would not stand any longer in the way of hon. Members opposite. What they all desired was that similar cases should not be liable to occur in future. All who heard the statement made the other night by the Secretary of State for the Home Department knew that he was prepared to meet every one of the points raised by the Committee, and the result of that must be that such cases would not be likely to occur in future.

MR SWIFT MACNEILL said that in the case of Mr. Beck there had been an awful and scandalous miscarriage of justice, and he wished the hon. Member for the Hallam Division had abstained from lecturing the House in the manner he had done as to the way in which business was conducted at the Home Office. The documents were never brought to the knowledge of the late Viscount Ridley, the then Home Secretary. Everything was discussed and dealt with by the subordinate officials, who ought to have brought the case to the knowledge of the responsible Minister. The hon. Member for the Hallam Division was Under-Secretary when Viscount Llandaff was Home Secretary, and their tenure of office was characterised by a great miscarriage of justice in the case of Mrs. Maybrick. She ought to have been hanged or let go free. It had been stated again and again that the Beck case was unparalleled, but he was not at all satisfied that there were not cases of a similar nature from time to time. The late Sir William Harcourt, in 1883, when Home Secretary, brought forward a Bill with the object of establishing a Criminal Appeal Court. Lord James of Hereford stated that it was within his knowledge that a man had been twice convicted of offences of which he was innocent. Cases where innocent persons were convicted were of frequent occurrence. He could not help contrasting the generosity with which Mr. Beck had been treated in the matter of compensation with the small and utterly inadequate payments made to people in Ireland who had been convicted on the evidence of perjurers connected with the police and sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. The grievance of those who had suffered wrongful imprisonment in Ireland was aggravated in some cases by the fact that the perjurers who had brought about the miscarriage of justice received what were called compassionate payments in order that the police force might be relieved of them.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that this discussion afforded a deplorable illustration of the effect of the closure. It was a great pity that instead of walking through the division lobbies they could not go on a little longer with the discussion of this matter. His complaint was that the Home Secretary had not made the slightest attempt to satisfy public opinion in regard to this gross miscarriage of justice. In the two debates which had taken place on the subject compliments had been paid to the police and the Home Office, as though, in the conduct of these Departments, everything was for the best in the best of all possible worlds. The Report of the Committee of Inquiry contained the following—

> "And though it is possibly beyond our province to suggest it, may not the time have come for abolishing the anomaly of pardoning a man who never ought to have been convicted, and a simpler remedy adopted of quashing the conviction on motion by the Attorney-General and entering an acquittal as of Record ?"

Why did not the right hon. Gentleman do something to carry out that recommendation ? The system of identification, as illustrated by what occurred in this case, showed that changes were required in order to guard against the danger of injustice being done to innocent persons when arrested on suspicion. The representatives of the Home Office had not given the slightest assurance that such a grave miscarriage of justice would be avoided in future.

And, it being Ten of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER, in pursuance of the Order of the House of the 16th March, put that Question.

The House divided :—Ayes, 239 ; Noes, 195. (Division List No. 83.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bagot, Capt Joscelyne FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Lt-Col. H. F. (Middles'x)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V.C.W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlayne, T.(S'thampton)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt Hn Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Mancr)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords. N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hn. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herb. Merton
Kennaway, Rt Hn Sir John H
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks, NR
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hn. Heneage
Lockwood, Lieut.- Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)

Long, RtHn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W.F.
Maxwell, RtHn Sir H.E(Wigton)
Maxwell, W.JH.(Dumfriesshire)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charle Bine
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, E.)
Smith, HC(North'mb. Tyneside)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hon. A. (Ormskirk)
Stanley, Rt Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir M. J M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf'dUniv.)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A.CE(Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und. Lyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellice, Capt EC.(SAndrw'sBghs)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Field, William
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, RtHn. Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Herme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, David Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan, W)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift

MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Mitchell, Ed. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.

Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R. (Northants)
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John

Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (N Dorset
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid.
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. Lough and Mr. Markham.

Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order to the House of the 16th March, then put forthwith the Question, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in all the remaining Resolutions reported in respect of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates."

The House divided:—Ayes, 251; Noes, 198. (Division List No. 84.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn A.J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach, Rt Hn Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Lt-Col H. F. (Middlesex)

Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R
Colston, Chas. Ed. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles

Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt Hn. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hn. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.

Godson, Sir Augustus Fred.
Gordon, Hn.J.E (Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans(T’rH’mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hn. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq.of(L’nd’nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton(Tynem’th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, Arthur H. (Hanley)
Heath, Sir Jas. (Staffords, N.W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F(Sheffield, Brightside)
Hornby, Sir Wm. Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J(Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hn. James HenryCecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, RtHn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. ColW
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir H. Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph(Monm’th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. LW(MileEnd)
Lawson, JohnGrant(YorksN.R
Lee, A. H. (Hants, Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, RtHnWalter (Bristol,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W F
Maxwell, RtHnSirH.E(Wigt’n
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dunfriesshire)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott(Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. T. Myles
Seely, Chas. Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, HC(North’mbTyneside
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stewart, Sir Mark J.M‘Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Chas. Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G(Oxf’dUniv)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Ed. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt. ColA.C.E (Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts
Whiteley, H.(Ashton undLyne)
Whitmore, Chas. Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H(Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)

Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellice,CaptE.C(S Andrw'sBghs)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans,Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Field, William
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffiths, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Chas. H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Hope, John Deans(Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, VincentP.(Cavan,W)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert

Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Edw. (Fermanagh,N)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon,N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan, V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E (Waterford)
Richards, Thos. (W.Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.

Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Schmann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J.E.B(IsleofWight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick, B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, D. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.HnC.R(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E)
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills,Arthur Walters(NDorset
Wilson, FredW(Norfolk, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestershire,N
Wood, James
Woodhouse, SirJT(Hudd'rsfi'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

WAYS AND MEANS [21ST MARCH].

Resolutions reported.

1. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, the sum of £626,630 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom."

2. "That, towards making good the Supply granted to His Majesty for the service of the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, the sum of £28,172,000 be granted out of the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

Whereupon Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put forthwith the Question, "That this

House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolutions.”

The House divided :—Ayes, 254; Noes, 199. (Division List No 85.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allhusen, Augustus Henry Eden
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt Hon Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hon A J (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Bowles, Lt.-Col H F (Middlesex)
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shrops)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C.R
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, W. Bromley
Davies, Sir Horatio D. (Chatham)
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzgerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, Maj Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Groves, James Grimble
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'donderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley)
Heath, Sir James (Staffords. N. W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Kerr, John
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks, N.R
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Loder, Gerald Walter Erskine
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb, Eskdale
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W.
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H (Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, David J. (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Myers, William Henry
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde

Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F.L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W.W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel,SirHarry S.(Limehouse
Sandys, Lieut.-Col.. Thos.Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Charles Hilton (Lincoln)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,HC.(North'mb. Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Hn, Arthur (Ormskirk)
Stanley,Rt.Hn. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,Sir Mark J.M'Taggart
Stock, James Henry
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J. G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirC.E.H(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt.Hn. Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E.(Taunton
Welby,Sir Charles G.E.(Notts
Whiteley,H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomes
Wylie, Alexander
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—
Sir Alexander Acland-Hood
and Viscount Valentia

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N. E
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Cawley, Frederick
Channing, Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas.Ramsay(Galway)
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellice, CaptEC(SAndrw'sBghs)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Field, William
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Chas. H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,DavidBrynmor(Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mitchell, Ed. (FermanaghN.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James (RoscommonN)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Perks, Robert William
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond,John E.(Waterford)
Richards,Thomas (WMonm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter

Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj J. E. B (Isle of Wight)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn. C. R(Northants)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Willams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters(N Dorset)
Wilson, Fred. W.(Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, John (Falkirk)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh, N)
Wood, James
Woodhouse, Sir J. T. (Hudd'rs'd)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Herbert Gladstone and Mr. Causton.

Bill ordered to be brought in by the Chairman of Ways and Means, Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Victor Cavendish.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

"To apply certain sums out of the Consolidated Fund to the service of the years ending on the 31st day of March, one thousand nine hundred and five and one thousand nine hundred and six," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next.

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said he desired to call attention to the interpretation given, rather unexpectedly but no doubt accurately, to the Closure Resolution under which the business of the House was now being carried on. The hon. Member for Clitheroe gave notice as early as he could, after satisfying himself on the merits of a particular question, to disallow one of the Orders now lying on the Table of the House. No attempt had been made to prevent business of a similar kind being taken under the operation of this rule, and on Monday night, after the adoption of that rule, a Bill was read a second time in the House. That night there was an important Resolution on special exception for overtime, as to which there was very strong opinion amongst Labour Members, but it was now held that this could not be taken. That was a great hardship, because those rules were always specially exempt from the twelve o'clock rule.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's) said the right hon. Gentleman could not have consulted the hon. Member for Clitheroe before putting the Question. During the afternoon he agreed with the hon. Member for Clitheroe that the matter should be fully discussed and that he should not be placed in a worse position through the operation of this rule. The hon. Member expressed his gratitude and satisfaction at that arrangement.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said that the hon. Member for Clitheroe was aware of his intention to make this statement. It was not a question of one Order, but of the operation of all the Orders, and there was no doubt that different views had been taken on the question.

*MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire Clitheroe) said that what the Home Secretary had stated with reference to the arrangement they arrived at during the afternoon was perfectly true; and he was quite satisfied. But the question was whether the closure rule was intended to strike out a Resolution such as he had put down. He agreed with his right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean that this question should be raised.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) asked whether the guillotine Resolution would have the effect of rendering the Parliamentary days in which it operated *dies non* for the purposes of the forty days on which the rules were to remain on the Table of the House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: This is a question of the construction of a statute upon which I can give no authoritative opinion. These statutes vary considerably in their terms, but in the present case I understand that the forty days mean forty running days including Sundays and other Parliamentary *dies non.*

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.) said he understood that in consequence of the terms of the Resolution under which the House was at present sitting, none of the notices of Motions on the Paper could be taken.

*Mr. SPEAKER replied that that was so.

Mr. ASQUITH regarded it as very unfortunate that at eleven o'clock, when there still remained an hour of Parliamentary time, the important point raised by his hon. friend the Member for Clitheroe could not be discussed. He understood the Home Secretary to say, however, that there would be an opportunity for discussing the question.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS said it was possible that what the hon. Member for Clitheroe desired might be carried out without the intervention of the House. What he had promised was that if that should not prove to be the case the matter should be further considered.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight) desired to put a question with regard to the misunderstanding with reference to Vote 1 of the Army. The question was whether it would be possible to arrange that the whole of Monday, April 3rd, should be given to the discussion of Vote 1 of the Army, as was intended by the Prime Minister. The intervention of an important private Bill would apparently deprive hon. Members of a part of the time available for the discussion. He also pointed out that had Vote 1 remained under the closure rule it would not have been possible for any other business to have come between it and the House, as the Rule provided that no other business than that of Supply could be taken at any sitting at which Government business had precedence. It might be that this was unavoidable, but he thought some explanation ought to be given. He might add that no breach of faith was imputed to the Prime Minister on that side of the House, least of all by himself.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour (Manchester, E.) thought the House had been under a misconception on two points. If the right hon. Baronet would look not at the particular closure rule under which the House was working, but at the Standing Order governing Supply, he would see that the Motion in question could not in any case come on on a Thursday until after twelve o'clock. The well-known Supply rule stated that "On a day so allotted—"

AN. HON. MEMBER: This is not an allotted day.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said in that case his argument fell to the ground. Then there remained the question regarding the Army Vote. The point raised by the hon. and gallant Gentleman was one that the hon. Gentleman had dealt with rather fully at Question time by Question and Answer. He thought the hon. Member still laboured under the view that he had something to do with the arrangement of private business. He had absolutely no more to do with it than the hon. Gentleman himself, and he was never consulted upon it. He understood that what had occurred was that the important private Bill to which the hon. Gentleman referred was to have been deferred until April 6th, but it appeared that on that date a good many Gentlemen opposite, for a very worthy and agreeable reason, did not desire to be in their places at nine o'clock, and in consequence the day was altered to April 3rd. He hoped that no Member of the House, least of all any Member opposite, would suppose that he could by any action on his part alter what had occurred. He would be glad to be the intermediary to bring the matter before the Chairman of Ways and Means, but unfortunately the right hon. Gentleman was unable to be present. Was the House prepared to adhere to the original date of April 6th? The only desire of the Government was that the Bill should come on at the time most convenient to the House. Members usually grumbled because such Bills were put down on private Members' nights; now they grumbled because the Bill was put down on a Government night. If hon. Members could come to some arrangement agreeable to both sides no one would rejoice more than he.

MR. BLAKE (Longford, S.) said there was no question as to where the responsibility for arranging private Bill business lay. It had been laid by the House upon the shoulders of the Chairman of Ways and Means, whose duty it was to see that such business was fairly allocated between the different days. But he had also to see that arrangements made under such rules as that now governing the proceedings of the House were duly carried out, and he would doubtless see the impropriety of interfering with any such arrangement. On the other hand, if in order to secure the full day which had been promised to the Army Vote it was necessary to postpone certain festive arrangements, he had no doubt the public spirit of the section of the House concerned would lead them to make such arrangements that public business should be properly dealt with.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) asked whether there was anything to prevent the Motion of his hon. friend being discussed that evening provided the Government and the mover of the Resolution were willing.

*MR. SPEAKER said he was sure that the House would be very glad if the hon. Member for Clitheroe were not deprived of his opportunity, but the Order of the 16th March stood in his way. He had no power, nor had the Government any power, to dispense with the Order of the House, which laid it down that no business other than was specifically mentioned should be taken.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) desired to call attention to a matter of which he had given the Chief Secretary private notice. Nationalist Members had to complain only too frequently of the infamous system of jury packing in Ireland, but a more flagrant case had never been brought to the public notice than had been perpetrated at Cork to-day. In the Watergrasshill case, out of eighty-one jurors compelled to be present in Court, no less than forty-six were ordered to stand aside by the Crown Prosecutor. That was a most shameful case of jury packing, and he hoped the Chief Secretary would inaugurate his term of office by taking effective steps to put a stop to this gross and shameful prostitution of justice.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.) said that though the hon. Member had given him notice of his intention to ask a Question, he had not mentioned what the subject of the Question was to be. He had no information on the subject now raised, and he could hardly make a statement while the question was *sub judice.*

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said the case was *sub judice*, but the administration of justice was not, and the selection of the jury had nothing whatever to do with the merits of the trial. If the Chief Secretary had no information on the subject, possibly the Attorney-General had.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) pointed out that the notice of the hon. Member referred simply to the administration of the law in Ireland, and it was impossible from that to divine what particular case he intended to refer to. He had no information whatever on the point referred to by the hon. Member, but the Crown Prosecutor was acting under his authority, and he was responsible for his action. At the proper time he should be prepared to defend that action if, after full investigation, he approved of it, and hon. Members would have an ample opportunity of discussing it.

Captain Donelan.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman endeavour to obtain some information, and give it to me to-morrow?

MR. WALTER LONG said that although the hon Member had given him notice of his intention to ask a Question, he had not mentioned what the subject of the Question was to be. He had no information on the subject now raised, and he could hardly make a statement while the question was *sub judice.* The case would come before the Attorney-General and himself in proper course, and the hon. and gallant Member might rely upon it that if no injustice had been committed he would be prepared to defend the action.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: I beg to give notice that I shall raise this question again upon the Motion for Adjournment to-morrow.

MR. KEIR HARDIE: Can the right hon. Gentleman give us any information as to when the Bill dealing with the unemployed question, promised in the King's speech, will be introduced?

[No answer was returned.]

Adjourned at twenty-one minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Friday, 24th March, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]. A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Clyde Navigation Bill [H.L.] Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Entre Rios Railways Bill [H.L.]; Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [H.L.]; Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3^{a}, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill. Read 3^{a}, with the Amendments; a further Amendment made; Bill passed, and returned to the Commons.

Buenos Ayres Grand National Tramways Bill [H.L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Order for the Second Reading on Monday the 3rd of April next, discharged. Ordered, That the Bill be not further proceeded with.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3330. France (Brest).

TURKEY, No. 1 (1905) (OTTOMAN PUBLIC DEBT).

Decree issued 1st (14th) September, 1903, as an annex to the decree of 28 Mouharrem, 1299 (8th (20th) December, 1881).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BISHOPRICS ACT, 1878, AND BISHOPRICS OF SOUTHWARK AND BIRMINGHAM ACT, 1904.

Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, founding the Bishopric of Southwark.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, fixing the establishment of the Commissioners of Irish Lights, and the salaries to be paid to the several officers of their establishment.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, entitled "The Southern Rhodesia Order in Council, 1905."

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE).

Order made by the Council of the Borough of Rochdale, dividing certain wards of the borough into polling districts.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

WHALE FISHERIES (SCOTLAND) BILL [H.L.].

House in Committee (according to order); Bill reported without amendment. Standing Committee negatived; and Bill to be read 3^{a} on Tuesday next.

STANDING COMMITTEE.

Report from the Committee of Selection for the Standing Committee, That they have added the Earl of Feversham to the Standing Committee; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

House adjourned at half-past Four o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 24th March, 1905.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Shropshire and Worcestershire Electric Power Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 2) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the counties of Anglesey, Middlesex, and Stafford," presented by Mr. Grant Lawson; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 120.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 3) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Milford Haven, Sheringham, Stalybridge, and Swinton," presented by Mr. Grant Lawson; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 121.]

Local Government Provisional Orders (Poor Law) Bill. "To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to the parish of Hammersmith and the Poplar Union," presented by Mr. Grant Lawson; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour; read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 122.]

Weybridge and Walton-upon-Thames Electric Supply Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table.

Newcastle Chapter (Amendment) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday, 3rd April, and to be printed. [Bill 124.]

Swansea Corporation Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITION.

SUGAR TAX.

Petition from Hollingworth, for repeal; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MERCHANT SHIPPING ACT, 1894.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, fixing the Establishment of the Commissioners of Irish Lights and the Salaries to be paid to the several Officers of their Establishment [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, entitled The Southern Rhodesia Order in Council, 1905 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

BISHOPRICS ACT, 1878, AND BISHOPRICS OF SOUTHWARK AND BIRMINGHAM ACT, 1904

Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 20th March, 1905, founding the Bishopric of Southwark [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (BOROUGH OF ROCHDALE).

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Borough of Rochdale dividing certain Wards of the Borough into Polling Districts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 1) Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158b]; referred to the Committee on the Bill.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3330 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Relief Works for the Unemployed—Liability to Disfranchisement.

SIR CHARLES McLAREN (Leicestershire, Bosworth): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether any men out of work, who are taken on and employed by boards of guardians and rural district councils to break stones or in any similar occupation at a fair rate of wages, are treated by the overseers as having been in receipt of parish relief, and are liable to disfranchisement; whether his attention has been called to the fact that no such disability or stigma attaches to men similarly employed by urban district councils; and whether, in order to facilitate the relief of the unemployed, he will proceed to amend the law and place all public bodies on a similar footing in this respect.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I do not know what course may have been adopted by any particular overseers, but I am not aware of any ground for considering that men who are employed by any local authority upon work which they find it necessary to undertake, and who are paid wages for their work, would be disfranchised. If, however, the men are in receipt of relief from the guardians and employment is given to them in connection with the relief, they are, no doubt, disfranchised whatever may be the form in which the relief is given. It does not seem to me necessary to propose an alteration of the law on this subject.

Demand Notes for Collection of Rates—Statement of Amounts required for Particular Purposes.

MR. LAYLAND - BARRATT (Devonshire, Torquay): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, if the persons responsible in a borough for the collection of rates, and who have not up to the present done so, decided to show on the demand note the amount required for particular purposes, including that of education, as is done in the cases of Plymouth, Truro, Exeter, Eastbourne, Leicester, Hove, Bournemouth, and other boroughs, the Local Government Board would interfere in any way to prevent this being done.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The expenses of a town council for such purposes as education are usually payable out of the borough rate, and speaking generally the borough rate is payable out of the poor rate. The prescribed form of demand note for a poor rate requires the "borough rate" to be shown as one of the purposes for which the poor rate was made, and also the amount in the £ levied for this purpose. The Local Government Board have stated that the demand note should be issued in the prescribed form, and that the proportion of the rate in the £ in respect of so much of the borough rate as is levied to meet the expenses of the town council for particular purposes should not be specified separately upon the demand note.

Promotion in the Bristol Post Office.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state why a number of men with unblemished character and with service ranging from fifteen to twenty-five years have, in the recent promotions in the Bristol Post Office, been passed over in favour of a junior postman.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I am not aware to what promotion the hon. Member refers, unless it be one made in August, 1904. On that occasion, in making an appointment to the position of head postman, it was necessary to pass over a number of men who either declined promotion or were not qualified for the position.

Protection of British Subjects in Baku.

MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether representations have reached him to the effect that numerous British inhabitants of Baku are in great danger, and that some of them find difficulty in obtaining food; and what steps His Majesty's Government are taking for the protection of British subjects in Baku.

(*Answered by Earl Percy.*) We understand that some anxiety is felt as to the safety of British residents in Baku, and His Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburg has been instructed to make representations to the Russian Government on the subject, but the authorities appear to be taking special steps for the restoration of order.

Erection of Labourers' Cottages in the Strabane (No. 2) Rural District.

MR. McFADDEN (Donegal, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the cause of delay in proceeding with the completion of Scheme I., for the erection of seventeen labourers' cottages in the Strabane (No. 2) Rural District; whether the scheme was formulated by the council six years ago; and whether the delay in proceeding with the scheme lies with the Local Government Board or the district council; and if steps will be taken by the Local Government Board to expedite the completion of the scheme.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The delay in carrying this scheme into effect rests entirely with the district council and their officers. The Provisional Order was made by the Board in April, 1903, and became absolute on June 2nd, 1903; but the council did not lodge the necessary enlarged maps, etc., with a view to the appointment of an arbitrator, until more than twelve months afterwards. The arbitrator was appointed on July 28th, 1904, and his award was made on the 19th September. The council may have considered it undesirable to proceed with building works during the winter season: but otherwise there was nothing to prevent them from doing so, as the loan was sanctioned by the Treasury so far back as November, 1903.

Transit Facilities at Sneem.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, with reference to the proposed withdrawal of the Clyde Shipping Company's service on the south-west coast, whether he can state the exact arrangements made by the Congested Districts Board with the Great South and Western Railway for delivery of goods at Sneem from Kenmare Station and *vice versâ*; what are the special rates through to Sneem quoted by the railway company; and whether steps have been taken to secure that the Limerick or other steamers will call, at regular intervals, at Sneem.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I have furnished the hon. Member with the information asked for. The Board have no control over the Limerick or other steamers calling at Sneem, and do not intend to pay a subsidy to such steamers.

Science Teaching in Ireland.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland (1) whether he can state the number of applications for organisers' science courses in local centres which have been sent to the Commissioners of National Education by school managers or others, and which have not yet been dealt with; (2) whether he will give a list of suitable centres in which in the opinion of the Commissioners it is advisable to hold preliminary revision and continuation courses respectively; (3) whether he will recommend that funds be provided for the continuance of the organising work after the 31st instant on the same scale as heretofore in order to permit of these classes being held; (4) whether he can state the number of unequipped schools in which no science instruction has yet been given; (5) and whether, seeing that the three science organisers whose services are being retained would be unable to pay even one organising visit per annum to each of the schools already equipped, he will recommend that an adequate staff of organisers be appointed after the 31st instant to guide and supervise science teaching in the schools.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) No such applications have been undealt with. Four such were received during the current year, and were refused for the reasons which I stated in reply to a Question yesterday.† The second Question depends upon the provision which has been, and is to be, made by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for the training of teachers in elementary science. 7,195 schools have not yet received equipment grants of science apparatus, but some of them may have been equipped from local sources. It cannot, therefore, be inferred that science instruction has been given in none of these schools. There are 5,551 schools manned by only one teacher, and in these it would be difficult to give practical instruction in elementary science, even if the teacher were specially trained. Instruction by way of object-lessons is considered sufficient in such cases. Instruction of that kind was given in 8,281 schools in 1903. The Answers to the third and last Questions are in the negative.

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† See page 972.

Training of Irish Teachers in Practical Science.

Mr. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid); To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if, on taking into consideration the fact that less than 40 per cent. of the Irish national teachers have been trained in Part I. of the elementary practical science course, and only 6 per cent. in the Part II. course, he will state what arrangements have been made for the training of the remaining teachers who have not yet had an opportunity of attending the organisers' classes, and who had no opportunity of receiving instruction in this subject when they were passing through the training colleges.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Head Organiser of Elementary Science and two assistants have been permanently retained to continue the training of teachers in science, and the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction are giving facilities for the training of teachers in that subject at local technical schools.

Salary of Assistant Teacher in School Roll, No. 5736, District 57, Circuit 22 C.

Mr. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will explain why the Commissioners of National Education have not yet paid salary for the quarter ending December 31st, 1904, to the assistant teacher in School Roll, No. 5736, District 57, Circuit 22 C; and if he will order its payment forthwith.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) This school was closed by the manager from October 24th to December 31st, 1904, with the exception of two days. The chief inspector has since inquired into the matter, and his report will be considered at the next meeting of the Commissioners. Meanwhile, salary cannot be paid any member of the school staff.

TOWN TENANTS (IRELAND) BILL.

[Second Reading.]

Order for Second Reading read.

*Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) said that in moving the Second Reading of the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill, which had fallen to his lot, he desired, at the start, to inform the House that this was not to be regarded as the Bill of last year. The Bill of last year, he and his friends found, was regarded with serious objection as to some of its features, and as they desired to make some headway on this important question, they had struck out what they believed to be strictly just sections but which were thought by those opposite to be so objectionable. They had consequently reduced the Bill to what was practically a Bill to give compensation to the town tenants of Ireland for improvements which they had made at their own expense. He was glad to say that the Irish Party had made those changes with the full concurrence of that great organisation known as "The Town Tenants' Association in Ireland." Therefore, he hoped that he might anticipate success for the Bill, the Second Reading of which he was now moving. He saw the Chief Secretary present, and he invited the right hon. Gentleman to inaugurate his term of office by allowing the Irish people to have such a small measure of Home Rule, at all events, as was contained in the Bill. The proposals in this Bill were a matter of justice to a very large section of people, and they would not do injustice to any class of people in Ireland. This was an "all Ireland" question from end to end of Ireland. Without distinction of politics or creed the people of Ireland were in favour of this measure; and he thought that the Chief Secretary might well begin his term of office by allowing the Irish people to have their own way in a matter so vitally affecting themselves, and not likely to endanger the integrity of the British Empire.

He proposed to impose upon himself the ten minutes rule, and only meant in moving the Second Reading, to briefly put the principles of it before the House, and that for two reasons. First, because he thought the Bill explained itself satisfactorily to any one who took the trouble to read it. Second, and for a more important reason, he was anxious that as large a number of Irish Members as possible should have an opportunity of saying what their constituents thought of this measure. The Bill proposed in Clause 1 that a town tenant on quitting a holding might claim compensation from the landlord for improvements made by him or his predecessor in title, which had added to the letting value of the holding. And, in case of dispute over compensation, unless the parties agreed to arbitration, the matter must go before the County Court Judge. He thought that no one would allege that a County Court Judge in Ireland was likely to be a partial tribunal to the tenant. He thought that if any suspicion of partiality might be entertained at all, it would be that in favour of the landlord and not of the tenant. Therefore, the landlords could not object to going before a tribunal which they had always declared to be the most impartial in the land, and the least expensive. That latter consideration was most important to both landlords and tenants. Then, in the next place, in the event of any dispute between a landlord and a tenant with regard to a claim for compensation for improvements on a holding, such dispute, unless the parties agreed to refer it to arbitration, the Judge in awarding compensation might, in reduction of the tenant's claim, take into consideration the rent at which such holding had been held, and the tenant was not to be entitled to compensation for improvements made before or after the passing of the Act which the landlord undertook to make, unless the landlord failed to carry out his undertaking. Therefore it was left for the landlord to decide the matter. These were not very revolutionary proposals. Again, notice of any proposed improvements by the tenant must be given to the landlord, with a specification or plan of the proposed improvements, and the landlord had a right to object to them, and the reasonableness of the proposal of the tenant was to be decided by the Court. Again, a tenant voluntarily quitting his holding was not to be entitled to compensation if he had had permission from the landlord to sell his interest in improvements to the incoming tenant, whether the said tenant took advantage of such permission or not. And compensation was not to be payable unless notice was given, and agreed to by the landlord or sanctioned by the Court, except for such improvements as were enforced by order of the sanitary or any other authority and made by the tenant. These were, briefly, the outlines of the measure, which, as he had said, was an "all Ireland Bill."

The only opposition to it, he believed, came from five Gentlemen who might be very excellent Irish landlords, but it was very remarkable that not one of them had a seat in this House for an Irish constituency. He claimed, once more, that this was an "all Ireland Bill," and he was courageous enough even to hope that the Attorney-General for Ireland might see his way to support it. Of course, if the right hon. Gentleman did not, the Irish Members recognised his position as an official member of the Government. The five Gentlemen who had issued a whip against the Second Reading of the Bill held seats for English towns, and he thought that they might have allowed the Irish Members to look after the interests of their own constituents. He knew that two of these hon. Gentlemen were not seeking to come back to this House after the general election; and he was equally certain that other two of them would not get back there, whether they desired it or not. That was the weight of the opposition to this little measure; and he hoped that the Chief Secretary, when he came to speak on the Motion before the House, would keep a steady eye on Ireland and never cast a blink behind him to the people who were only capable of making mischief, and would never do any good at all to Ireland. He had much pleasure in moving that this Bill be read a second time.

*Mr. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick) said he would like to remind hon. Members that this was not a new subject of discussion in the House of Commons. As long ago as 1886–7 the Towns Holdings Committee was appointed, and subsequently a large volume of evidence they had seen was issued. But that

Committee presented no Report on account of a change of Government; and subsequently it was thought expedient, according to the views of those who held office, not to approach this difficult question. Nevertheless, the subject of the Bill, the Second Reading of which he had the pleasure of seconding, had occupied the public mind of England and Ireland. Long before he came into Parliament he was obliged to take notice of the grievances with which this Bill dealt, and since he entered the House he had introduced a Bill every session to try and remedy these grievances. Two opportunities were obtained of discussion. On the first occasion the Second Reading was defeated by a large majority, but on the second it was thrown out by a majority of only thirty-seven, and the strange feature about the division was that the only Members from Ireland who voted against the Bill were the official representatives of the Government in Ireland. That proved the proposed measure had the approbation of every section of the Irish community, save and except that of those who were salaried to oppose it. He remembered shortly after he entered the House he presented no fewer than forty-six petitions praying for an amendment of the law relating to town holdings. The majority of those petitions came from Ulster—that portion of Ireland which, in the opinion of hon. Gentlemen opposite, most truly represented the judgment of Ireland. Lord Peel, who was then Speaker, made the remark that he never knew of any subject on which so many petitions from Ireland had been presented concurrently. The agitation had continued ever since. Only a few days ago he had presented a petition from Blackrock U.D.C. (now a Conservative Council), Kingstown, Bray, and many other urban councils had also strongly protested—in fact, all Ireland was demanding remedial legislation. This almost unprecedented coalition of political parties should be realised by those who were inclined to oppose the measure now before the House.

He desired, as chairman of the Town Tenants' Association, to put before the House a short history of that body. The Town Tenants' Association was not in opposition to any other association; on the contrary, it had the co-operation of the United Irish League, the Land and Labour Association, also various political, non-political, commercial, and trades union societies all over town and country in Ireland. The Town Tenants' Association started spontaneously, and was organised voluntarily, without an official paid organiser. The reason was that a grievance existed in every portion of Ireland, to which attention was directed by the confiscations, rack rents, and hardships endured by town tenants, business men, inhabitant householders, and tenement occupiers in nearly every city, town, and village in Ireland. He thought it was unique in the history of any great association that it should have been started without the assistance of a paid organiser. Councillor Briscoe, who was the hon. secretary, and paid his own expenses, organised no fewer than 200 branches, which were in existence at the present moment, with a central executive and head office in Dublin. Therefore, this was a question which could not be lightly treated by any portion of the House of Commons. He would have hon. Members remember that the security of the home was the anchor of the State, and that that principle was recognised in every civilised community except in England and Ireland. Innumerable letters had reached him giving instances of confiscations, fines, penalties, spoliation, and eviction; and he was of opinion that this Bill ought not to be a private Member's Bill. It was the duty of the Government to protect every portion of the community, and he could not understand why a responsible Irish Government should be permitted to remain in office while the resident occupiers of town holdings were exposed to the legalised plunder carried out under the existing law. As showing how house property was managed in other countries, he would refer hon. Members to a Return moved for and obtained by the late Lord Randolph Churchill from every Consul in each civilised country. That Return showed that even in Turkey and Russia, where constitutional government is unknown, there was more security for town tenants than in England and Ireland. The Scotch people were too shrewd and clever to submit to the law as it existed in

England and Ireland, and they had the system of feu freeholds. He held that it was the duty of salaried responsible Government to protect every portion of the community, so that they might be able to carry on their avocations with profit to themselves and benefit to the State. He laid down the Conservative principle that the law should not enable a man to appropriate the property of another man at the end of his lease. No right of property should be so extended as to conflict with the general interests of the community; but that principle was adopted in English and Irish law relating to town holdings, in opposition to the legal practice of any other country.

Now, how did this system come into existence? It could scarcely be correctly termed statutory law. For he had searched through the Statute-book and found that the terminable leasehold system had been introduced by means of private Bill legislation in olden times, for the purpose of forwarding the benefit of the owners of settled estates, ground landlords, middle men, and house jobbers. He was of opinion that a scheme of such importance, affecting millions of urban residents, should not have been allowed to be smuggled through Parliament by means of private Bill legislation long ago, because these private Bills were not then discussed as they were to-day. He trusted that the Government would take a statesman-like attitude in regard to this measure, because it affected the vast majority of urban residents in England and Ireland. The existing law was a bar to progress and improvement. He further asserted that it was not only against the principle of general utility which should be the basis of all, and obedience thereto, and further it was opposed to common-sense equity and justice. The terminable leasehold system operated in England and Ireland in certain localities to the danger of the community. Those who lived in towns, who were almost as numerous as the agricultural population, were at least entitled to equal protection with those who lived in the country; and it was incumbent on the Government to protect town tenants—leaseholders, inhabitant householders, and tenant occupiers—from legalised oppressions and injustice. Security had been already conceded to the Irish agriculturist; why not extend it to the urban resident? The old Civil Code laid it down that no man should get rich at another man's expense; but that was precisely what was being done under the present law. He expected there would be no hesitation on the part of the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary to adopt this measure which, if he might be allowed to criticise it, did not go far enough. The supporters of the Bill had reduced it to a minimum; and they could not understand how any impartial man could oppose so simple a measure, which only aimed at protecting the property of a man who had created it. He agreed with the hon. Member who had introduced the Bill that the opposition to it by the five hon. Members who had issued a whip against it came from Gentlemen who did not represent Irish opinion. The Romans had a proverb: "Summum jus summa injuria"—the greater the law the greater the injustice. Which quotation accurately defined the existing position in regard to the town tenants of Ireland. He was sure the right hon. Gentleman the Chief Secretary and the Attorney-General for Ireland realised that they were not in office for the purpose only of drawing a salary, but of forwarding the best interests of the people. Therefore, it was their duty to abstain from using their prestige and influence in opposition to the Bill but leave it to the judgment of the House. He reminded the Attorney-General that only recently in one small town it took eight policemen to protect a process server who was engaged in serving a process on a town tenant. The people paid for the constables, the landlords controlled them; they also controlled the military forces. But there was a greater force than constables or armies and that was the force of public opinion, and when public opinion had gripped the idea of protecting their rights in the future, the time had come for legislation. The main difficulty he had experienced as president of the Town Tenants' organisation was to restrain the aggrieved tenants, who believed in the maxim that "Those have rights who dare maintain them," but in view, possibly, of remedial legislation he advised—

> "What reinforcement we may gain from Hope;
> If not, what resolution from Despair."

As the measure had been so lucidly explained by his friend and colleague the hon. Member for Kilkenny, he trusted that recognising the necessity for justice, and the urgency for this measure, the House would pass the Second Reading by a large majority.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

***SIR JOHN COLOMB** (Great Yarmouth) said he desired to approach this subject from the point of view of equity, and the point of view of that which was also necessary to the prosperity of the country, namely, the point of view of security of property. The hon. Member who seconded the Motion was clear and distinct on one point, which was that this was not merely a Bill for the town tenants of Ireland, but one that he also claimed on behalf of the town tenants of England.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN said the Bill spoke for itself and did not mention England.

MR. FIELD said he represented Ireland, and had nothing whatever to do with England except in the position he took up as a Member of this House upon the measures which were recorded by it.

***SIR JOHN COLOMB** said he certainly understood the hon. Member to claim this Bill on behalf of the town tenants of England as well, but, however that might be, what he wished to point out was that there was nothing exceptional in the position of town tenants in Ireland to necessitate this measure. This Bill was recommended as a small measure of urban Home Rule; now, whatever their views upon Home Rule might be, it must be remembered that there was a great fundamental difference between the social condition of the rural districts of Ireland as compared with those of this country, but in towns the conditions were the same. Of course predatory instinct was common to all mankind. It was not confined to a particular class or a particular district, and one of the features of modern politics was the readiness with which Members of the North of Ireland were ready to give expression on behalf of a class to that predatory instinct. Whenever there was a chance of so doing he noticed they were only too delighted to find themselves in the lobby with the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. That predatory instinct had been whetted by legislation adopted in this House, legislation which in 1870 helped to produce that chaotic confusion in the economic condition of Ireland from which that country could only be rescued by the pledging of the resources of this country to the extent of £100,000,000 in order to get Ireland out of the mess into which it had got through that legislation. He submitted, therefore, that the House must be very careful not to take the same step and commence the same course with regard to the towns of Ireland as it had done with the country districts. His submission was that there was no difference between the position of landlord and tenant of a town holding in Ireland and landlord and tenant of a town holding in England, and it appeared to him that this Bill would introduce into the relationship between landlords and tenants in Irish town holdings the litigation, uncertainty, friction, and expense which the legislation of 1881 created between landlord and tenant of Irish agricultural holdings; that was the way in which he saw it, and that was why he opposed the Bill. It seemed to him that it would confiscate the value of reversionary interests which was the chief attraction to small investors in Ireland. This Bill was aimed more at the small investors of Ireland than any one else, and he thought the House would do well to pause and think carefully before giving a vote on this matter. If there was any difference at all between the towns of England and Ireland that difference lay in the fact that the number of great owners in the towns of Ireland was considerably less than in the towns of England, and it was by reason of the fact that small owners had invested in that class of property that a multitude of small men who had perhaps put their all in small house property would be hit the hardest; they had no cash to fight or litigate with as they would have to do to defend their interest when this Bill came into operation.

He noticed, in the first place, that the Bill made no distinction between improvements made by the existing tenant or his predecessor. It was to be retrospective in its operation, every existing contract was to be subject to the new law, and all the basis on which the security of property rested was to be disturbed by the operation of this Bill. It conferred on existing tenants rights they never had possessed and never expected to possess, except in modern times through the action of hon. Members for Ireland. The point he wished to make was that there was something better and deeper, more conducive to the prosperity of the country than mere popularity. There was the fundamental principle of securing what belonged to people, rightly and by law, and maintaining contracts fairly entered into between man and man. This Bill went beyond that. In the first place it claimed for the existing tenant improvements not only made by himself, but his predecessor's. In such a clause there was no limit; it carried them back to the time when houses were first built. On whom did the onus lie of proving that the improvements were not made by the landlord himself? The Bill made no difference between residential and business premises. Supposing in a street which was residential a man had purchased two of three houses. It might be that in that street there was no shop and that fact would give a great advantage to anyone opening a business there over shops more remote, which would lead directly to the enhanced value of a shop so opened. Under this Bill the tenant of the middle house of the three might think it a good thing to turn his house into a shop, and all he would have to do was to give his landlord notice to make the shop and the landlord would have to compensate him when he left. That was all very well, but what would be the result to the houses on either side. It would depreciate that property in order simply to put money into the pockets of the third party. He further objected to Clause 7, which incorporated Sections 16 to 19 inclusive and Section 21 of the Landlord and Tenant (Ireland) Act of 1870. What was the Act of 1870? The whole foundation of that Act was to secure protection against the landlord exercising his powers to force the tenant out. This Bill dealt not with the question of turning out a tenant but with one who was quitting voluntarily, and the machinery for basing certain claims established under an Act which was to prevent landlords exercising a power to turn out a tenant did not seem applicable to the case of a tenant who was quitting his holding voluntarily. It was clear that the real intention was to introduce, by adopting this method of procedure, into the town the principle of the Act of 1870, out of which grew so much confusion, with the result that the House was compelled to pledge the credit of the British taxpayer to the extent of a hundred millions sterling.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) It was the salvation of the Irish landlords.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said that was not the point. He only wished to draw the inference that, looking at the history of the way in which the House had dealt with the land question in Ireland and produced a state of things from which escape only could be found by pledging the British taxpayers' money, they ought to be careful how they extended their operations. The Bill was retrospective. He therefore considered it confiscatory. He believed that one effect would be that wherever the tenure could be terminated before the Act came into operation the rent would be immediately raised and that in itself was likely to produce permanent evil consequences. At any rate it would promote litigation; it would lead to overworking the County Court Judges. [AN HON. MEMBER: They want work.] It might be true that at the present time the work of County Court Judges was light, but this Bill would add to it enormously.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: County Court Judges in Ireland work five months in the year; they are idle the remaining seven.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said that was a very small point indeed, and it was not necessary to enter into it. He only wanted to point out that the Bill would create enormous pressure upon them.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: And a good thing too.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said another objection which he had was that the Bill would set landlords and tenants by the ears. The real necessity for Irish prosperity and Irish progress was the restoration of security in property. In his opinion this Bill would further shake that security, and in consequence it would shake the very foundations of the prosperity of the country by plunging the smaller men into litigation and providing work for lawyers and jobbers. He begged to move that the Bill be read a second time that day six months.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.), in seconding the rejection of the Bill, claimed that it contained principles of a most objectionable character. It would create enormous difficulties for town tenants. The hon. Member for the St. Patrick's Division had given his view of what the Bill was, but he rather inferred from the speech of the hon. Gentleman that he was thinking more of long building leases than of any other class of holding. He seemed to think that the same difficulty did not occur in Scotland, where feus still existed. But, after all, the difference in the two systems was that in one case the lease was granted for ever whereas in the other it was for ninety-nine years.

MR. FIELD: That is what we want.

MR HERBERT ROBERTSON said he supposed he was right in inferring, then, that the hon. Member really meant the Bill to apply in the main but not entirely to building agreements. He spoke of the conservation of property. It was doubtful whether the word "conservatism" was properly applicable in this case, as they understood conservatism they desired to conserve the general principles of the Constitution, but that could hardly be applied in the case of this Bill. The hon. Member pointed out that ninety-nine years leases were the same in England as in Ireland, and it had never been suggested, and indeed he did not think it would be suggested, that there was any real difference between England and Ireland in this respect. But he would like to point out that the Bill in itself was in no sense limited to building agreements. It applied to every kind of tenancy, even yearly and six monthly ones. It was not even confined to towns, for if they looked at the eighth clause they would see that it was provided that holdings were houses, shops, or other buildings occupied for residential and business purposes, and it therefore might be taken to apply, for instance, to his own residence in Ireland, which certainly could not be said to be in a town. In fact, it applied to houses in all parts of the country. The hon. Member seemed to think that under the existing law, if a man granted a lease for ninety-nine years he could at the end of the term take back the property as it then stood. But what was the case? He had built many houses and he had offered to the purchasers two alternatives, either to buy them out and out, in which case the price would be £600, or to take a lease for ninety-nine years at £400. He had had cases in which a man had come to him and stated that he would like to buy the freehold, and he had suggested to him that it was doubtful if he would be wise in doing so, and had urged him to seek the advice of his friends as to whether, for his own purposes, it would not be better for him to lock up £400 instead of £600 of capital. If the man came back and said he preferred to take a lease for £400, what conceivable right could that man be said to have at the end of the term of ninety-nine years? He had voluntarily elected what he would not purchase, and that being so, would any hon. Member opposite say there would be any wrong in the person in whom the freehold was vested taking back the land at the end of the term together with the house built upon it?

MR. T. HARRINGTON (Dublin Harbour) said the Bill did not deal with cases of that kind. It simply provided that if the tenant in the meantime expended his own money in improving the property he should be entitled to compensation, Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON doubted whether some of the hon. Gentleman's colleagues would assent to the view that the original outlay of the tenant was fully compensated for, and that the Bill was not to affect building leases such as he had described. The grievance he had always heard expressed was not that improvement had been made in the course of the lease, but that a building had been put up at the beginning of the lease, that it was still standing, and would be confiscated at the end of the lease. That was undoubtedly an improvement made by the tenant, and the only words under which the landlord could escape paying compensation were that the Court might take into consideration "the rent at which such holdings have been held, and any benefits the tenant may have received." The length of term would not be treated as a benefit received under that clause, as the tenant would undoubtedly have paid rent in excess of the value of the land as agricultural land. The spirit, if not the words, of the Bill was that compensation should be paid at the end of the lease. But even if it were assumed that the original outlay of the tenant at the commencement of the lease was not to be compensated for, there were cases in which tenants, for their own purposes, during the currency of the lease, materially enlarged the premises. It did not at all follow that from the landlord's point of view those additions would be of the slightest value.

Mr. T. HARRINGTON: Then the tenant would get no compensation under the Bill.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON said that was not the effect of the Bill at all. The test of the liability of the landlord to pay compensation was whether or not the land had a higher letting value. The premises if left standing might have a higher value by reason of the additions, but the earlier portions of the building might be in such a condition that the landlord desired to pull the whole of them down. That was a very common occurrence. London was practically rebuilt every hundred years. The character of the neighbourhood might have altered, or it might be desirable to turn a residential quarter into a manufacturing quarter or a rich district into a poorer district, with smaller houses, or to put up big blocks of buildings, and consequently the landlord would desire to pull down the existing buildings, not because they were rotten, but because circumstances required it. That was constantly occurring in London.

Mr. O'SHAUGHNESSY (Limerick, W.): How does that apply to Ireland.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON said that Dublin was in exactly the same position as London in that respect, and similar occurrences on a smaller scale happened in the country towns. If the tenant made the alterations without the consent of the landlord, what right had he to compensation? He could understand it if the Bill were limited, not to the letting value, but to the actual benefit derived by the landlord, but that was not the case. The additions were made perfectly voluntarily, and without any intention of ever getting compensation. In nine cases out of ten the property had been sold since the alterations were made, and the man now in possession could not suggest that he had paid anything to entitle him to compensation at the end of the lease. Leases deteriorated in value as the term went on, until during the last few years they were worth practically nothing. That seemed to prove that the tenant who in the past had made additions to the property had no equitable right of any sort to come upon the landlord for compensation.

Turning to the clauses in detail, the Bill would come into operation mainly on the determination of a tenancy, and in some respects it would appear to give fixity of tenure. This clause rather intended that at the end of the tenancy the tenant should have the right to sell a tenancy, and at the end of ninety-nine years he wanted permission to sell. If the landlord said "You may sell," he would be selling something which was approaching fixity of tenure. Therefore this Bill did bring in something like fixity of tenure. But in addition to compensation, as a necessary corollary to it, they had got fixity of tenure, otherwise when the rents expired there would be an end to the whole transaction. Although he had been referring to ninety-nine years leases only, this clause would, as a matter of fact, apply to any tenancy, however short. That would cause enormous trouble in Ireland. True there were large holdings, but there were a large number of small holdings. In Dublin there might be large areas from which some landlord drew an income mostly from £3 rents, but they had to eliminate the large ground landlord, and having done this he thought they would find that the holders were comparatively small people. So that this was not a case of the rich and the poor. The Bill did not apply to business premises alone, but it applied distinctly to residential premises. Nobody ever contended that a man had in his residence the same interest as a man in his business premises or as a farmer in his farm. If a farmer was turned out he could not readily get another farm in Ireland because there were very few left, and he could not remove to another farm without incurring some loss; but in almost all these small towns and villages there were other houses to be had very easily. Again, a man had not the same interest in a dwelling house in the town as in the country if there was a farm attached. This question could not be treated as applying to ninety-nine years leaseholders only, for it applied to small people who had bought three or four houses, and they would be liable to have to pay money to tenants on their going out. The only people who would benefit by this Bill would be the moderately well off. This measure would relieve those who were fairly well off, who had chosen to expend their money on property which they knew they had only a temporary right to, and it would give them something which they never expected to get when they laid out their money, and which they had no kind of right to receive. This Bill, in principle, applied just as much to England as to Ireland. Feeling strongly that the effect of this Bill would be to injure small holders, whilst it would benefit big leaseholders, and that it would tend to raise rents, he had much pleasure in seconding the Motion of his hon. friend.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Sir John Colomb.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL said he voted for a more drastic Bill last session and he certainly intended to vote for this measure. He had listened to the speech of the hon. Member for Hackney with something like amazement. What was the use of talking about London. Let him just think of the state of the towns and villages in Ireland. There were hundreds of small towns where accommodation, either for business or residence, was of the most meagre character. The landlords would not carry out any improvements. The tenants dare not carry out these improvements, because if they did their outlay would most certainly be confiscated. What was the use, then, of talking about the constant changes in London and the large towns of England and comparing them with the small towns and villages in Ireland, which were in a disgraceful condition. The fact was that the landlords would do nothing and the tenants could not do anything because their expenditure would be confiscated.

The hon. and gallant Member for Great Yarmouth talked a great deal about the foundation of everything being the security of property, and he quite agreed with that statement. Where he found fault with the hon. and gallant Member was that he never seemed to get into his head that anybody else but the landlords had any property in the country. He agreed that security of property lay at the basis of good government in any country, but as a matter of fact they were supporting this Bill because property was not secure in Ireland and because capital expended by the tenant was being confiscated by the landlord. The question was as to whom this property belonged. They were anxious that the hon. and gallant Member's clients, whose interests he defended with such vigour, should get their own, but they should not be allowed to take and confiscate the property of other people.

When the hon. and gallant Member talked of predatory instincts, and about hon. Gentlemen from Ulster sitting behind him being infected with those predatory instincts, that was a delightful phrase, and he hoped they would see where their comrade was leading them. What else but the predatory instincts of Irish landlords had produced the whole of the land legislation of Ireland. The main object of Mr. Gladstone's Land Bill of 1870 was not so much to settle the land question as to restrain the predatory instincts of the hon. and gallant Gentleman's friends in Ireland, the Irish landlords, who, nevertheles, managed to drive a coach and four through that Act and went on with their predatory instincts until they were overtaken by subsequent legislation. The tenants' property had to be assessed, defined, and made clear by this House before the Purchase Acts could be brought into operation. People who talked about the predatory instincts of Irish tenants should remember who it was and by whose action such legislation had been rendered necessary.

It was said that the Bill laid no onus upon anybody to prove the improvements. The hon. and gallant Member knew a good deal about the South but very little about the North of Ireland, or he would know that, whatever else was certain in the North, under the Ulster custom the improvements belonged to the tenant until the landlord proved that they belonged to him. So far as Ulster was concerned th t was the law and it was a very proper law. It was only just, because everybody knew that landlords in Ireland did not make improvements unless under exceptional circumstances, and never made them unless they raised the rent. The right hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth said that this Bill would hit small men, the men who had saved and scraped money together—and there were a great many such in Ireland—and put it into house property. Did the hon. and gallant Member think that the Bill proposed to take property from these men? How could they be hit? This was not a Bill to take anybody's property. It was a Bill to prevent men taking the property of other people. Let them take the case of a business man who had a ninety-nine years lease. In the course of his business he improved his property and spent thousands of pounds upon it. He built additions to it and made permanent improvements. At the end of his lease, what happened under the present law was that all these improvements went to the landlord, and not only that, but he could not claim the business he had built up as his own. He could be evicted at the end of his lease and his property could be given to another, and then, forsooth, the right hon. and gallant Member and his friends came to this House and talked about the predatory instincts of the people. The false economy that the right hon. and gallant Gentleman talked about was embodied in all these Irish Land Acts.

The right hon. and gallant Member was right when he said the principle of this Bill should be applied to English tenants as well. This Bill only touched the fringe of a great question. It was thundering at our gates now, and another Parliament would not close without effective legislation taking place on it. Let them look at the condition of the small towns in Ireland and the inability of the tenants to carry out improvements which were necessary, often for decency, and certainly necessary for carrying on business. This Bill was to protect these people. It was to enable a man to say to the landlord at the end of his lease, "I have spent so much here, it is not yours, it is mine. I do not want to take a farthing that belongs to you. I want rational and fair compensation for what I have done, and of which you will get the benefit when you re-let the premises." That was not robbery.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. BRODRICK, Surrey, Guildford): Why confine the Bill to Ireland?

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Although my name is not on the back of the Bill, and I am supporting a measure for which I have no responsibility, I will tell the right hon. Gentleman why it is confined to Ireland. We have an interest in Ireland that we have not in England or Scotland. We have a small number of Members in this House compared with the great majority of English and Scotch Members, and it would be almost an impertinence if the Irish Members were to introduce a Bill dealing with the whole of the

United Kingdom on this question. Continuing, the hon. Members aid it might console the right hon. Gentleman to know that there was a Bill of a similar character for England before the House of Commons now. At all events they confined themselves to Ireland. He had heard the right hon. Gentleman ask that Question about Bills before. He was very fond of asking that the Irish Land Bills should be applied to England. They worked for the Irish Land Bill because they sought legislation for the country they knew, and they left the country they did not know to legislate for itself. They would be admirably satisfied if they could secure this Bill for Ireland. Probably, if they carried it for Ireland the English people would wake up to find they had got some interest in questions of this kind. But, at all events, this Bill was not only limited in its character, so far as the area to which it applied was concerned, but it was a Bill of the greatest moderation. If the Chief Secretary would compare the Bill of last year with this year's Bill, he would be forced to admit that this was a Bill not exhibiting those predatory instincts with which the right hon. and gallant Gentleman opposite sought to frighten them. It was a moderate and reasonable Bill. It was quite possible that certain clauses of the Bill would require to be thrashed out in Committee. He submitted that the object of the Bill was not to take property from the landlord, but to prevent the landlord under certain circumstances taking other people's property. And let him point this out. The Irish representatives were at the House of Commons to-day one hundred strong—and there were two Members from Trinity College but he might be excused if he did not count them as Irish representatives at all—and he knew the South and midlands would be solid on this matter. He told the Member from Ulster who opposed this Bill or who scuttled from it and walked out that he would court disaster in Ulster They had made up their minds in Ulster, and just as they fought to protect tenants' improvements on the land they would fight also to protect them in the town holdings. They had got the same equities at their back and, although this Bill might be delayed by English Members as Irish Bills had been delayed in the past, the end was perfectly certain, and those predatory instincts of which the right hon. Gentleman spoke would be effectively restrained and controlled.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said that in listening to the moderate speeches of the mover and seconder of the Motion for the Second Reading of the Bill he could not help wishing that hon. Members opposite more often devoted themselves to sensible proposals of this kind instead of indulging in violent language and idle dreams about Home Rule. He quite agreed that the hon. Member for South Tyrone, who had now joined his Nationalist colleagues, did not take that view.

*MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Will the hon. Member allow me to say once and for all that he was elected on a platform far more Radical than any I ever professed?

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I was elected on a platform I have faithfully kept, and I think the hon. Member will find the verdict of our constituencies to be in opposite senses. Continuing, the hon. Member said he would leave these differences aside at present. There was no doubt, at all events, that this Bill dealt with what all who represented Irish constituencies felt to be a real grievance. He thought the objection to the Bill was largely due to an entire misconception of the difference of town tenancy in Ireland from that in England and Scotland. In Ireland the tenant had to carry out and pay for all the improvements made, and it was a very hard thing, if he was a man of special enterprise and business intelligence, that he should be punished for that enterprise instead of rewarded when his lease came to an end. The hon. Member for Hackney had referred to this Bill as one which would introduce a certain fixity of tenure. That was a matter not directly touched upon or intended by the authors of the Bill, but he could not help saying that there were conditions under the system of yearly leases which did a great deal to check business enterprise. It was quite true that landlords were often just and generous men, but they were very often just the reverse. They had the power of restricting enterprise which it was the business of the Irish representatives to try to develop. The Scotch system of a perpetual lease and a feu duty was far better than the system of short leases in Ireland and England. It gave a sense of independence and security, and it encouraged enterprise and business activity. He had sincerely endeavoured to keep the pledges to which the hon. Member for South Tyrone had referred, because he had advocated his principles openly on the platform and had always voted for them in the House. He had pleasure in once more supporting them.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said that up to a certain point the debate had presented several familiar features, but he hoped that the similarity would end there, and that more satisfactory results would await the efforts of the Irish Members than on previous occasions. When the Bill was last before the House it was supported by the entire Irish representation with the exception of the official voice. He hoped that that would not be the case on the present occasion. A new development had been given to the doctrine of Unionism by the speeches which had been delivered by two hon. Gentlemen representing English constituencies. One of the arguments against Home Rule was that this House could legislate for Ireland better than an Irish Parliament; but here was a measure called for by the united voice of Ireland, which was acknowledged to be necessary, and yet was not to be applied to Ireland because it would not be suitable to certain towns in England. As regarded the hon. Members for Yarmouth and South Hackney, for whom the hands on the dial of time never went forward, they represented not only English constituencies, but also Irish landlordism in its most reactionary form. These hon. Gentlemen appeared to overlook the fact that a Select Committee on Town Tenants Holdings sat for three years, 1887–8–9, and heard evidence from England, Wales, and Ireland. That Committee reported that they thought the case for the alteration of the law in order to secure compensation to a tenant for improvements was stronger as regarded Ireland than as regarded England owing to the prevailing system of short leases. The Bill proposed that the law should be altered so as to give lessees and tenants of business premises a right to compensation for the improvements they had effected. The Bill of last year was opposed because it was too wide and too far-reaching and contained certain drastic provisions. All those had been eliminated from the present Bill which was a modest and a moderate measure. Yet it was opposed by hon. Gentlemen who, politically speaking, had no connection with Ireland in the same wholesale fashion as they opposed the previous Bill. Any measure containing even the smallest modicum of justice to Ireland would be opposed by these Gentlemen; but he hoped the Government would not follow in their wake.

The hon. and learned Member for South Hackney fell into a curious confusion of ideas. He seemed to think that there was a comparison between Mayfair and Mallow, and Belgravia and Ballydehob or Ballyhooley. The hon. Member argued that because certain provisions in the Bill would not suit Mayfair that therefore justice should not be done to Mallow, and that because it did not suit Belgravia it should be applied to Ballydehob or Ballyhooley. Was there anything more sad than to see a large number of houses in a state of decay because if they were improved the value of the improvements would at the expiration of the lease be confiscated. Surely there were rights in property other than the rights of landlords. They were all agreed as regarded the security of property; but should not the occupier, the industrial trader, and the cultivator of the land be also protected. Many of the arguments of the hon. Gentlemen were more suitable to the Committee stage, and it was obviously impossible to follow them through their labyrinthine arguments; but if the Bill were sent to a Committee they would be met. The broad principle, however, on which the Bill was based was protection for tenants. All classes in Ireland were unanimous in their desire to develop trade and industry, but would factories be built and industries started under such conditions as obtained at the present time? In one instance he knew of a great industry that had been built up and workmen's cottages had been erected round the factory on forty years leases, at the end of which time the lord of the soil might come down and scatter the workmen and take possession of their holdings and all their improvements, and of the factory, which he could either close and destroy or else by insisting upon an extra and heavy profit rental so paralyse that industry as to make it unprofitable. Under the present law no security existed for property, and it was for that reason that this Bill was introduced. The Irish Party had striven, and not without some success, to improve the position of the agricultural community of Ireland; by this Bill they were attempting to do something for those who lived in the town. When the House recognised, as it must, that all sections of the people in Ireland, whatever their politics or religion might be, were unanimously in favour of a measure of this kind it was unjust and unfair that the views of a few English Members who had neither concern nor interest in Ireland should prevail against the voice of that country.

Mr. EDWARD MITCHELL (Fermanagh, N.) thought it would be unwise at this stage of the Bill for anyone to deal with the details, which might well be left to a Committee. In his opinion, however, the Bill erred on the side of moderation. In Ireland there was a very strong feeling that something should be done in this matter, which was quite as much a burning question so far as the townspeople were concerned as ever the land question had been in the country. He hoped the Government would see their way to do something to recognise the claims and the merits of this Bill, and that the Chief Secretary would give a favourable reply to the demands made in so reasonable a way by the Irish Members, because there was a very great need of reform in this matter. So far as he was concerned he did not consider the Bill went far enough. Although the first clause recognised the paramount necessity for the tenant being recompensed for improvements in other respects, the Bill did not go to the real root of the grievance in respect to house property. Why should the builder of a house be compelled at the expiry of the lease to give up his entire property. It was said by the hon. Member for Hackney that the tenants took these leases with their eyes open. That might be perfectly true, but the reason was obvious. The landlords would not give any others, and tenants were compelled to take these very short and imperfect leases because in the majority of cases they could not obtain long ones. If the ground landlords insisted upon giving these short leases it was unjust and unfair not to compensate the tenants for their improvements when the leases expired and the property returned to the landlords, who had done nothing to bring these improvements about. Why should a greedy and rapacious landlord be allowed to take a property built by another person and which he himself had not placed one stone upon another to obtain? This was one of the bases of reform which must be relied upon if there was to be satisfactory legislation dealing with house property in Ireland. He regretted extremely that it did not appear in the Bill; that was one of the defects in the measure, but he had no doubt that it would be remedied in Committee. He had pleasure in supporting the Bill.

Mr. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.) said he felt compelled not only to support this Bill by his vote, but to speak in its favour and to try and induce other Members if possible to go into the lobby in support of it also. It was supported by every Member of the House representing an Irish constituency, except the official Members, and he believed if the Attorney-General for Ireland were in a position of greater freedom and less responsibility he also would support it. The only two dissentient voices had come from Gentlemen not Irish themselves or representing Irish constituencies.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB: I beg your pardon, I am Irish.

Mr. HEMPHILL apologised to the hon. and gallant Baronet, but said he had always understood he hailed from the northern part of the United Kingdom. Although he was, he believed, born in Dublin, he believed it was once said that a man was not a horse because he was born in a stable.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN: He might be a donkey.

MR. HEMPHILL said it was an undoubted fact that the tenants' holdings in Ireland were dwindling, and had been dwindling during the whole of the last century, and it was time some means should be devised and something done to try and check the downward movement. He was astonished to hear the hon. and gallant Member vindicate his opposition to this Bill on the ground of equity and of security of property, seeing that those were the grounds upon which the Bill was supported. The law of landlord and tenant in Ireland was against the first principles of justice. It was a fragment of the old feudal system, according to which none but the lords of the soil had any right to participate in the profits therefrom. The old maxim of feudalism was *cujus est solum ejus est usque ad coelum.* Which meant that whoever was the owner of the soil owned anything from the surface up to heaven, and anything from the surface downwards, though a tenant spent hundreds and thousands of pounds in improving a holding, made additions to his business premises to bring them up to date, and spent considerable amounts in adapting modern appliances in order to make the place habitable. All that was lost when he left, and all the money which he had expended in making those improvements went to the landlord. Such a principle was against the first ideas of natural justice. The Bill before the House sought to alter that. With respect to the improvements which had been made, he would say that where a tenant made improvements, if at the expiration of his tenancy he had to leave, then the value of those improvements, to the extent to which they had enhanced the value of the house or premises, should not go into the landlord's pocket, but into the pocket of the man who was responsible for those improvements. It was a notorious fact that in some parts of Dublin property had been improved by tenants at a very considerable expense, and yet by the law of the land no allowance was made for those improvements. The same might be said of business premises where a man had added to his premises. All those additions went, under the common law, to the landlord, and must do so unless some such Bill as this became law. He therefore appealed to every fair-minded man to support the Second Reading of this Bill.

Then so far as security of property was concerned, this Bill secured property to the man who was the real owner of the property. He did not propose to criticise the details of the Bill, which could be very well left to the Committee stage. The measure was well drawn, and although it might require some correction and might be improved in Committee the broad principle was perfectly comprehensive and required no criticism. Before sitting down he would just call attention to the fact that there was no reciprocity in the relations between landlords and tenants. A landlord, at the end of a lease, might sue his tenant for dilapidations and disrepairs, and enforce his claim often by ruinous litigation. But the existing law allowed no set-off to the tenant for additions or improvements made to the landlord's property. The landlord got everything, and the tenant had no satisfaction. It had always struck him as a most unjust anomaly of the law. He urged the Chief Secretary to bear in mind the serious consequences that might result from checking the almost unanimous desire of the inhabitants of the Irish towns and villages for the passing of some such measure as this. He trusted the House would not criticise, in minute details, the sections of the Bill, but would affirm the principle that they who sowed should reap, that the men who spent money in improvements should get the benefit of those improvements.

MR. MOONEY (Dublin County, S.) said that the Member for Hackney had pronounced views upon the subject which it would be extremely entertaining to hear him advocate in his own constituency. The fact was that the landlords' interests were quite sufficiently protected under the Bill, the principle embodied in which was that if a business man took a house and by his industry built up in connection with it trade which required that he should make structural alterations, he should not lose the fruits of his industry and his applied intelligence. The case of Kingstown was a very remarkable instance of the nature of the relations existing between landlords and town tenants. There, in that large and flourishing municipality, the landlords—Lord Longford and Lord De Vesci—had spent nothing on the development of the property, and had not behaved in that respect in the way which was usual with English landlords. Roads had been built and the conveniences of modern life had been provided by the town itself—by the ratepayers. The tenants had originally very poor and unsubstantial buildings in which to carry on their vocations; but Kingstown developed from the condition of a very small village into a flourishing place, in fact the wealthiest place of its kind in the whole of Ireland, not by any effort or outlay that had been made by the landlords, but solely as the result of the energy and intelligence of the people. The shopkeepers, in order to keep pace with general progress, had been impelled to improve, and had improved. What happened then? Some leases fell in, others were yet to fall in. When a lease terminated, and the tenant went for a renewal, he was met by the agent with, "Yes, of course; but you will be charged from 100 to 200 per cent. more than your present rent." That was because the premises were worth more—had been made worth more, in fact, by the tenant. Then, in cases where a new lease was granted, the tenant had to rebuild. That, of course, could not in most cases be fairly objected to, but see what happened when the plans were produced. Plans were designed to suit the requirements of the business. The decision of the agent was—"Oh, we do not care about your plans or the requirements of your business; you must fall in with our general views upon the subject of the estate." What was the reply to be in a case of that kind? The tenant had created the business interest. It was not easy to move out and carry the business interest along with him, and so the tenant could not decline to accede to this arbitrary demand. Surely that was a case for which there should be some remedy.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said he realised, as everyone must, that in voting for this measure they were voting for what constituted a very serious invasion of the rights of property. At the same time he was in sympathy with the Bill. He was extremely glad to find that the introducer of the Bill had confined himself to the question of compensation for improvements. He thought it would be extremely unwise and unjust on their part by any action they might take to-day to make this measure retrospective as was proposed in the Bill itself. When it reached the Committee stage he should do his best to have the clause dealing with the retrospective action of the Bill revised, as also Clause 8, because he did not think residential holdings should be brought within its scope. This was not in any sense of the word a working-man's Bill; it was a Bill designed to better the condition of the tenants of business premises in country towns, and looking at it from that point of view he was glad to be able to support it. In his opinion it could not in any way ameliorate the condition of the working man. He felt that the conditions in this Bill, if they included workmen's houses and residential properties of all sorts, would act as a great deterrent to capitalists or others who had money to spend and intended to spend it in building small houses. If there were to be innumerable claims for improvements hanging over one he thought it would seriously deter men from spending money in that way. What effect would such a Bill have on a large town like Belfast, where the building of small houses was a great industry, employing a large number of men and acting as an outlet to a large number of small capitalists? So far as the shopkeepers in a country town were concerned the principle contained in this Bill was a perfectly sound one and one which he hoped the House would affirm. He thought that this question of compensation was one on which all reasonable people, whether in Ireland, England, or Scotland, had realised that some change must be made. He could not see on what basis a claim could be made that a man who had spent his own money on improvements should not get the benefit of them when his tenancy had run out. It was a general principle that one man should not reap the benefit of money expended by another man, especially when the improvements increased the value of the freehold. The hon. Member for South Tyrone had uttered certain threats against the Ulster Members should they vote against this Bill.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Not threats.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG said all he could say was that neither threats nor warnings from the hon. Member would ever have the slightest effect on anything he might say or do in the House.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: Oh, you are safe with the Belfast freeholders.

*MR. CHARLES CRAIG said he was glad to hear that assurance from the hon. Member. The hon. Member had on more than one occasion given them advice or threats as to the course they should pursue in regard to measures before the House, and he repeated that such threats or advice would not alter the views or actions of any of the Ulster Members in the slightest degree.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY said he regarded this Bill as a very moderate and just measure, and he would give it—not the half-hearted support rendered by the last speaker—but most hearty support because he felt that nothing could be fairer than that when a town tenant spent his money and employed labour on improving his house, or devoted his time and ability to making a business of it, he should, when quitting, be compensated for these improvements when they added to the letting value of the premises. He was sure that if that became the law it would be a great inducement to people in towns to make improvements which under present circumstances they would not contemplate. Why, they naturally asked, should they spend their money in improving their holdings when on the expiration of the tenancy the landlord could put them out without any compensation at all—when, in other words, he could confiscate their improvements? The sole effect of the present state of the law was to bar industrial progress. Tenants who had disregarded the law had found out to their cost that it was neither a wise nor a profitable thing to do. Take the case of Kingstown; that was only an illustration of what was going on all over Ireland. Great injustice was done to the shopkeeper who, after he had made his business valuable, was turned out of his house at the end of his tenancy without any compensation, and often could find no suitable premises near to which he could remove. The Town Tenants Bill of last year was wider in its scope than the present measure, because it not only provided compensation for improvements, but also for the fixing of fair rents, and it also embodied the principle of purchase. All the Irish Members present, with the exception of the Law Officers of the Crown, voted in favour of that Bill, but they were defeated in a House of 361 Members by thirty-seven votes, and he submitted it was not fair that hon. Gentlemen representing British constituencies, who probably had not heard a word of the debate, should at the call of the Party Whip flout Irish opinion. The voice of the Irish nation thus unanimously expressed should have received greater consideration, and nothing could be more exasperating to the Irish Members than that an important measure of that nature, so vital to the interests of Ireland, should be defeated by those who had not listened to the debate and, therefore, were not dealing with the question on its merits. Town tenants were a most deserving class of the community. They required this protection against covetous landlords, who were ever ready to swoop down upon them and take away from them the fruits of many years of toil and industry. It was to prevent that that this Bill had been introduced. He hoped that the Irish Secretary would not take up a *non possumus* attitude, and that even if he could not give the Bill his support he would refrain from making it a Government question, and allow his supporters to vote as they thought just.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol S.): I congratulate myself very heartily on the fact that the first occasion on which I have been called upon to take part in a debate on an Irish Bill has been so distinguished by its business-like and practical character. I think we are indebted to the mover and seconder of the Bill for the brevity of their speeches. They set an admirable example, thus adopting a principle laid down by my hon. and gallant friend the Member for Essex, which I hope may be followed in other debates. The speech of the hon. Member for the St. Patrick Division has revealed to me, though, that there are fresh terrors for an Irish Chief Secretary even in addition to those I have already had to encounter, for it seems that, in addition to having to answer interrogations on every conceivable subject, it is also possible that the Chief Secretary may from time to time be called on to undergo a careful examination in the classics.

Appeals of a twofold character have been made to me in connection with the Bill before the House, the first being that I will approach the question from a practical point of view and not by way of a narrow interpretation of the clauses of the Bill. What little I have to say to the House will not be directed to any close examination of particular clauses, for I admit that what we have to chiefly concern ourselves with on this Second Reading stage is the general principle of the Bill. I also admit that the claim made by the mover of the Second Reading that the Bill is a very different one from that of last year has every foundation in fact. It differs in two respects—it is different because it is in itself more moderate in regard even to the particular subject of compensation for improvements in town holdings, and also because it omits various other clauses which were included in last year's Bill. I, therefore, accept the position that we have to deal with a Bill far more moderate than that which was rejected last year.

A second appeal has been made to the effect that I should have regard to the remarkable unanimity of opinion among the Irish representatives and should not oppose any obstacle to the passing of the Bill in face of that condition of things. That would be an argument very difficult to answer if it had been shown that this Bill is demanded by a condition of things in Ireland which is not to be found in the rest of the country or that the principles involved would not be applicable to other parts of the country. The majority of the arguments that have been addressed to the House have been used in order to show how great is the hardship upon the tenant who, when his lease expires, realises that he has out of his own pocket made valuable improvements to the property suitable for the purposes for which the property was intended, and that he is called on to surrender to the landlord the whole value of those improvements. Yes, but that argument must find a hearty response in the breasts of many of us in this House who are in precisely the same position. I, for instance, am the owner of a leasehold house in London, and have effected many improvements in it, but those improvements will—unless the law is altered in the meantime—pass from me to the landlord, without compensation to me, when the lease runs out. Therefore I say it is impossible, however anxious we may be to pay regard to unanimity of opinion in Ireland, to treat this question as if it affected Ireland only —as if the condition of things in Ireland differed from those existing in other parts of the United Kingdom, or as if, when the principle of compensation was once admitted in Ireland, a demand for its extension to other parts of the United Kingdom could be refused. On the Government, in such a matter, is a responsibility quite different from that which falls upon private Members, for not only must they be satisfied that the principle of a Bill is sound, and that its adoption by the Legislature will be just to the recipients, and benefit them without injustice to others, but they must also be satisfied that the method by which it is intended to apply the principle is workable, and will not effect injustice to others. They must also be convinced that the principle is workable. But while I cannot accept the unanimity of the Nationalist Members as a complete reason for giving support to this Bill, I ask the House to believe that my criticism will be made in no captious spirit, or with any lack of appreciation of the fact that there is in favour of this Bill an amount of unanimity of opinion which is seldom to be found in regard to Irish questions.

The central principle of the Bill is that compensation should be paid to the tenant of a town holding on the principle on which, under the Act of 1870, compensation was given to the tenant of an agricultural holding. But surely we have the highest authority against this, for when in 1886 a Bill similar to this was under the consideration of the House, both the right hon. Member for Montrose and Mr. Gladstone laid down in clear and precise language the fundamental differences between agricultural and town holdings in regard to improvements. Both of them opposed, in regard to town holdings, the principle of compensation, and pointed out with what great difficulties its application would be met. The definition of the Bill given by the hon. Member for South Dublin was that when a tenant effected improvements which added to the value of his holding, with the consent of the landlord, it would be an injustice if he did not receive compensation. But is that not far short of what this Bill proposes to do? It proposes, undoubtedly, to give certain protection to the landlord, but it does not follow that, if the landlord were to object to the improvements, his objection would prevent it from being effected.

Mr. MOONEY: I was referring to Section 1, Clause 3 only.

Mr. WALTER LONG: It is quite obvious that the whole difficulty centres on this question whether you can define accurately and with justice to both parties what is the improvement effected. The principle adopted in the Bill of 1886 was that a tenant was entitled to compensation if he had cultivated his land in a way which gave it a productive power, and left in it a state of fertility that it would not otherwise have possessed. In that case there was no difficulty in defining the improvement, because it was an improvement of the land for productive purposes. But we are dealing here with a class of property the use of which may be, and frequently is, varied from time to time, and it does not follow that the particular use to which a particular tenant puts the property of a landlord, and for which he expends money, is a use to which the landlord would desire to put it, or that i would be a use to which the landlord could employ it when the tenant left. That seems to be the essential difference between the principle underlying the Act of 1870 and that sought to be applied by this Bill.

It has been said, I believe with absolute truth, by my hon. friends on this side of the House that if this principle be adopted it will not apply, at all events in the great majority of cases, to what we understand by the great landlords. In our previous debates we have been face to face with the difficulty between the great landlords and their tenants, but all these arguments are inapplicable to the present case, because with the exception of those towns which are connected with the great demesnes I imagine it will not be denied that you will find that ownership is as much distributed amongst different people as you will in any other part of the country. It must be remembered that it is a common form of investment for the poorer classes of the country when they have money to invest. Probably one of the reasons which has brought it about is that it is property which can be seen and kept under observation, and is fairly remunerative, because tenants can easily be found. If you except those towns which form part of great estates, this class of property is held by smaller men. The House must realise that they are going to throw upon these smaller men a heavy burden against which it will be difficult for them to safeguard themselves by fresh contracts, and if they should so safeguard themselves, the very benefit you seek to confer upon the occupying tenant is destroyed by the contract which protects the original owner of the property.

I need not go into such details as the complexity which exists as regards ownership of land in Ireland. You may have one, two, or three owners, and you may have different interests in the property. All these are practical difficulties which make it dangerous for the House to accept the principle of legislation of this kind, which if adopted in Ireland could not, I believe, by any possibility or by any form of justice be denied to the rest of the United Kingdom.

I do not attach any importance to the argument that because the Bill applies only to Ireland therefore it should not have a Second Reading. Representatives of Ireland are much interested in this question, and believe that the amendment of the law proposed in this Bill ought to be made; therefore, having been fortunate in the ballot, they cannot be blamed for endeavouring to deal with the question so far as it affects their own country. What I ask the House to remember is that every argument which has been used in the course of the debate in reference to Ireland applies equally to this country. If they believe this principle to be sound and right as applied to the tenants of town holdings, and that the law can be so amended without injury to small owners or to the work going on in connection with the improvement of working-class dwellings, or to the development of towns by the clearing away of slum areas, the provision of open spaces, and the general improvement of the conditions under which the working classes live, they are by all means entitled to vote for the Second Reading of the Bill. Personally, I cannot hold that view; I do not think the case has been fully established; but, on the other hand, it is certainly not my intention to give any directions, even if it were in my power to do so, as to the way other Members should vote. I am a strong believer in the principle that, wherever possible, the House of Commons should be left to express its opinions without any directions from, or control by, the Government, and this is essentially a case where that principle should be applied. I have stated briefly, but I hope clearly, the reasons which make it impossible for me to vote for the measure, but, so far as those Members who usually act with me are concerned, I fully recognise that the Bill involves principles which do not divide Parties in the ordinary sense, and therefore Members should be asked to express their opinions according to the judgment they have formed on the facts which have been placed before them. I hope the House will vote on the question, appreciating the difficulties and possible risks, and also with a full sense of responsibility, inasmuch as an alteration of this kind, once made, may have very far-reaching effects on the general law of the country.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) thanked the Chief Secretary for his speech, and especially for the intimation that he did not propose to exercise any pressure upon his followers as to the manner in which they should vote. The right hon. Gentleman appeared to have only one objection against the Bill. He admitted the principle on which the Bill was founded to be a just one, viz., that if a tenant had made improvements which added to the letting value of the house he should be compensated for them.

MR. WALTER LONG: No, I said the principle of compensation was an attractive one to leaseholders, but I endeavoured to show that it was extremely difficult to apply.

MR. CLANCY said he understood the right hon. Gentleman to go so far as to admit that if certain facts were proved the inference would follow that the Bill was required in point of justice. If the right hon. Gentleman admitted that under certain circumstances it was just that a man who spent his money on improvements should be compensated at the expiration, of his tenancy, the case for the Bill was made out. The only other reason for voting against the Bill was one of the weakest ever put forward, but at the same time it was one with which Irish Members were very familiar, viz., that the principle was capable of being extended to England, and, therefore, although just in its application to Ireland, it should not be allowed to pass because it might be unjustly applied in England. That was surely another argument in favour of Home Rule. The Irish people were to be denied just and beneficial legislation because, this being a united Parliament, the principle must be extended to England.

MR. WALTER LONG: I really did not use that argument. What I said was that in my opinion no arguments had been used to distinguish the case of Ireland from that of Great Britain, that the case as put applied equally all over the United Kingdom, and that unless you could justify the principle which I ventured to criticise you could not justify the demand for one part of the country alone.

MR. CLANCY understood the right hon. Gentleman to say the circumstances of the two countries were not the same. But whether they were the same or not, if the principle was just in regard to Ireland why should it not be applied? If the circumstances were the same, apparently the principle ought also to be applied to England, but Irish representatives, of course, were not concerned with that. After the speech of the right hon. Gentleman there was really nothing to answer; the only thing left to do was to take the division, and, on the principles laid down by the right hon. Gentleman himself, if the facts in Ireland were as had been stated without contradiction in the course of the debate, the bulk of the supporters of the Government would be bound to support the Bill.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham) agreed that if Ireland had a grievance for which a just remedy was proposed the fact that a similar grievance existed in England was no argument against the remedy being applied in Ireland. The whole question turned on whether or not the remedy proposed was a just one, and he submitted that in this case it was most unjust. The principle which underlay this Bill was practically the beginning of the Irish land agitation. Certain concessions were made to the tenants by the landlords, and then further concessions were demanded, and he believed that if the concessions demanded by this Bill were granted further concessions would be demanded in the course of a few years, with the inevitable result that sooner or later they would be in the same position with regard to town holdings as they had been with regard to agricultural holdings in Ireland. The British taxpayer was a long-suffering person, but he was not anxious to have to provide large sums of money for the purpose of enabling town tenants to purchase their holdings as he had recently done in the case of agricultural tenants. He should have thought the House had had enough of these contraventions of the principles of political economy. The only way of successfully carrying on the enterprise of a country was to leave people to make their bargains between themselves without State interference. The case was put very simply by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose in 1886, and the statements then made, to which hon. Members had already referred, were sufficient to justify the House in voting against this Bill. Clause 1 would enable a tenant to claim compensation for improvements made by his predecessor in title. Such a proposal, he thought, was absolutely unjustifiable. The only conceivable contention in its favour was that the mere fact of hiring a house gave the tenant a right to the unearned increment of any rise in value which might take place. Such a doctrine could not be justified, and if carried out to its fullest extent would lead to serious consequences. Moreover, people would differ as to the value of an improvement. In an agricultural holding, an improvement was made for the purpose of increasing the productiveness of the soil, and anything which did that was a benefit to the holding. But in regard to a house in a town, improvements which suited the tenant who made them might actually cause a deterioration in value when the time for reletting came. He instanced the case of a friend of his who spent £25,000 in improvements on a house for which he gave £10,000, and the property had since been sold for £8,000. In such a case as that under this Bill the landlord might have been called upon to pay compensation for that £25,000 which had been actually lost. [" No."] Why not?

MR. HEMPHILL: There would have been no actual improvement in the letting value.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY asked how that was to be ascertained. The proposed reference to a Court would introduce all the evils of the Irish Land Court. Another result of the Bill would be to prevent all the improvements in towns and villages, because a landlord would not be able to see his way to pull down property on the expiration of a lease, in consequence of having to pay compensation for improvements previously effected, the value of which would be entirely lost. What was really wanted was to encourage capitalists to invest money in the building of houses. The evils of overcrowding in towns would never be remedied if such onerous terms were placed upon capitalists who wished to invest their money as to render it practically impossible for them to receive any adequate return for their money, or to be sure that the money they had invested would be secured to their heirs. Such proposals as these often secured support because they were only superficially examined. No doubt under this Bill certain people would receive a certain benefit, but the loss to the community would more than counterbalance the small gain to the immediate tenant. Then the Judge was to be assisted by two assessors remunerated respectively by the two parties to the case. The result of that could only be to lengthen the proceedings and to introduce a very objectionable element. Personally, if he had to go to arbitration he would far rather have one arbitrator than two or three, and there would be much more likelihood of a reasonable and equitable decision. There would also be introduced the element of expense which had so complicated the proceedings of the Irish Land Court. The only people who would really benefit under the scheme would be the lawyers and the assessors. Last year a somewhat similar Bill was defeated by a considerable majority; he sincerely hoped a similar fate awaited the present measure. The Bill would introduce the beginning of Socialism, which he was afraid was spreading considerably in this country, and which he regarded as the greatest evil that could possibly befall any country.

MR. BOND (Nottingham, E.) thought it was incumbent upon Members, when a Bill was introduced which they thought would be deleterious not only to Ireland but in the long run to other parts of the United Kingdom, to say what they thought with regard to the merits of the measure. The present Bill, in his opinion, was a bad one. It started under false pretences, inasmuch as, although described as a "Town Tenants" Bill, it contained nothing about towns or town tenants, but would apply to almost every house throughout the country, with the possible exception of agricultural holdings. He was informed that about 350,000 houses would come under the operation of the Bill, and yet not a word had been said in favour of the principle of the measure. It was not disputed that the tenure of houses in Ireland was practically the same as in England or Scotland. The agreements were arrived at between landlord and tenant, who were quite capable of looking after themselves, and hitherto they had not thought fit to introduce any provisions with regard to compensation for improvements. It was now proposed that, instead of leaving these things, as they ought to be left, to the bargaining of the individuals concerned, the State should step in. An endless amount of expense would be incurred in determining what amount of compensation was to be paid for improvements which the landlord had not sanctioned and did not desire. Other speakers had pointed out how the Act would work in particular cases. The tenant might come forward with a proposal to spend a good deal of money on the property and the landlord might think that such expenditure would not really improve his property and probably would decline to give his sanction. Under this Bill, when the tenancy expired the landlord would have to pay for those so-called improvements which might have been effected wholly and entirely against his will. Any arrangement of that kind would be extremely inconvenient to the landlord, for it did not follow that it would be convenient for him to pay down at once a lump sum equal to the capital value of the improvements. As the landlord never made his arrangements with any idea that such a demand was likely to be made upon him it would be extremely unjust to pass such a clause as the one which made such provision. He did not know whether hon. Members opposite were more fond of litigation than he was, but he rather gathered from the proposals in this Bill that they were, because he could not conceive of a measure that would cause more vexatious legal proceedings between landlord and tenant than this Bill. This measure was not founded upon natural justice, it was throwing an apple of discord in Ireland, and would turn out to be a fruitful source of litigation and dispute.

It was because he thought this Bill would produce a large amount of bad blood that he hoped the House would reject the Second Reading.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 146; Noes, 89. (Division List No. 86.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, Joseph
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway)
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hunt, Rowland
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mitchell, Ed. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. John P. (Galway, N.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Roche, John
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Slack, John Bamford
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wood, James
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir A. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Lt-Col. H. F. (Middlesex
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St John
Bull, William James
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire)
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers

Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Garfit, William
Graham, Henry Robert
Helder, Augustus
Horner, Fredk. William
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks. N R
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S.
Maxwell, Rt. Hn. Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Percy, Earl
Platt-Higgins, Fredrick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Samuel, Sir Harry S. (Limehouse
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H. (Renfrew
Smith, H.C. (North'mb Tyneside
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C. E. (Taunton
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.)
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Noes—Sir John Colomb and Mr. Herbert Robertson.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Mr. Patrick O'Brien.*)

*Sir JOHN COLOMB objected to this course being taken, and argued that a Committee of the House was the proper body to discuss a Bill of this character. The Bill was far-reaching in its character and controversial, and it ought not to be sent to the Standing Committee.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 148; Noes, 80. (Division List No. 87.)

AYES.

Abraham, William, Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Chas. P.
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cautley, Henry Strother
Channing, Francis Allston
Clancy, John Joseph
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Denny, Colonel
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Evans, S. T. (Glamorgan)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harrington, Timothy
Harwood, George
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hunt, Rowland
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kennedy, Vincent P (Cavan, W
Kilbride, Denis
Lambert, George
Langley, Barty
Law, Hugh, Alex (Donegal, W)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Calmont, Colonel James
MKean, John
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Mitchell, Ed. (Fermanagh, N.)
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Col. J. P. (Galway, N.)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)

O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Roche, John
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Rt. Hn. CR (Northants)
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore, C(Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wood, James
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Captain Donelan.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Capt. Sir Alex. F.
Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Bowles, Lt.-Col H. F.(Middl'x)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. HnJ. A(Glasgow)
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W(Derbyshire)
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Dickson, Charles Scott
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hn. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Flower, Sir Ernest
Garfit, William
Gibbs, Hon. A. G. H.
Graham, Henry Robert
Horner, Frederick William
Howard, J (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hn. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Kimber, Sir Henry
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lawrence, W. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, John Grant(YorksNR
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Long, Col Chas. H.(Evesham)
Maxwell, Rt. HnSirHE(Wigt'n
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Purvis, Robert
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Robinson, Brooke
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Shaw-Stewart, Sir H (Renfrew)
Smith, H. C(North'mbTynes'd
Stanley, Rt. Hn. Lord (Lancs)
Stewart, Sir MarkJM'Taggart
Talbot, Rt Hn J.G(Oxf'dUniv.)
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent, Col SirC.E.H(Sheffield.
Walrond, Rt.Hn. Sir Wm. H
Welby, Lt-ColA C.E.(Taunton
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H.(Yorks)
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Sir John Colomb and Mr. Herbert Robertson.

Bill committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc.

SMALL HOLDINGS BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) said he regretted that he had to bring this Bill before the House at such a late hour of the afternoon, but he would endeavour to state briefly and clearly the points raised by the Bill. Substantially the principle of the Bill was to extend compulsory powers to purchase or hire land for small holdings now enjoyed by parish councils (with the consent of the county council) under the Act passed ten years ago by his right hon. friend the Member for Wolverhampton to county councils, urban and rural district councils, and borough councils. Nobody would dispute that the extension of small holdings would tend to check rural depopulation; that it would raise the standard of agriculture by concentrating more capital and labour on the land, thus increasing the production of the soil; and that it would tend to improve the whole economic and social condition of the country side. No one would dispute that substantially the existing machinery had failed in regard to this question.

This was not a subject for Party recrimination. It mattered nothing whether the Parish Councils Act or the Allotments and Small Holdings Act had done most. In any case the figures were absolutely trivial. Then there was a convergence of opinion that while strong machinery was needed, machinery would be useless unless the strongest human motives were enlisted to push that machinery into action. Those who were familiar with districts in which small holdings had been successful, as, for example, those concerned in fruit and vegetable growing and poultry farming, knew that the extension of the system might benefit other districts. In certain districts they had exceptional soil and exceptional advantages as to markets, but, it had recently been shown that some of the poorest soil in Norfolk might be productive and profitable when cultivated as small holdings. And Denmark afforded a striking illustration of what could be accomplished with the poorest of soil when energy, skill, and combination were brought to bear, working out a great economic triumph and building up the fortunes and character of a whole people. It was useless to treat small holdings as a theoretical "fad" or to say that this was an electioneering and clap-trap proposal. The lessons to be learned from Denmark were that small holdings were bound up with scientific organisation, that self-help was the ally of mutual help, and that more could be done by men than by machinery. He did not think we should apply these lessons in a spirit of mere imitation; we had to work absolutely in our own way. The hon. Member for the Bordesley Division had always insisted that we should do no good in this country unless we went to the foundation, and based our system of small holdings on ownership. That proposal might ultimately become the basis of action in this country. The failure of the Small Holdings Act of 1892 had been due, firstly, to the absence of compulsory powers, and, secondly, to the limitation which practically confined the operation of the Act to purchase.

What were the conditions of success? They must give the freest play and encouragement to the greatest of all human motives, namely, rational self-interest; they must give the utmost variety and elasticity of method; they ought to enlist those agencies which most tended to secure economic success and to eliminate the causes of failure and disappointment. In the last case they should rely on effective compulsory machinery in order to bring the land in the cheapest and most effective way within the reach of those who could make use of it. He was perfectly aware of the dislike in some quarters of the principle of compulsion. Let hon. Members who objected to compulsion refer to the Return ordered on the Motion of the hon. Member for Ilkeston of lands acquired in various ways during the last ten years, and they would see that while only 189 acres in all that time had been compulsorily hired, 2,364 had been obtained by agreement. Compulsion was a mere bugbear. He looked upon it as an accelerator and stimulant of what, if men began to think it all out, they would do naturally of their own motion and in their own interest. The Bill now before the House was rather to give a real start to the natural forces tending to the social good, eliminating friction between men, and showing that the common interest led to the greatest improvements in the working of the land.

The tendencies of land reform at the present time were in the direction of municipalisation and of co-operative effort. He would use them both. Of course, compulsion must necessarily be vested in local authorities, and it was possible that the land obtained compulsorily could, in many parts of the country, be best managed and controlled by local authorities themselves. But he looked for the widest and most useful development through the action of co-operative societies. If we had throughout this country co-operative land societies such as some of those with which he was familar in his own part of the country—societies which took the land from the local authorities, or the landowners, with the view to reletting it, or reselling it, among the members—it seemed to him that we would have the most satisfactory procedure of all. Co-operative land societies would act as buffers between tenants and owners and between the local authority and the small holders and would be the surest guarantee against loss to the rates, while giving the greatest assurance to the landowner that the land would be carefully guarded from deterioration. The tenants also would have greater fixity of tenure and lower rents and the whole position would be enormously improved.

In this Bill two novelties were introduced. It made the local authority guarantee the condition of the land, and it provided that any society employing the powers proposed to be conferred by the Bill should have the power of expelling from a holding any member of the society who acted in a way to deteriorate and injure the land. This measure was not intended to supplant the Act of 1892, but rather to supplement it. The old machinery was left as it now stood. What was added by this Bill was compulsory power to all authorities to purchase or hire, and power was given in cases where disputes arose of appealing to the Board of Agriculture. Under this Bill the period of compulsory hiring would be increased to forty-two years, and the principle was introduced that a local authority hiring land in the first instance might have the option of purchasing the land at the end of every seven years, and further that a tenant who took land from a local authority should have the option of either buying or hiring the land in the first instance, and, under certain conditions, of purchasing the land by notice before the end of any term of his tenancy. This procedure would minimise the cost and the risk in connection with the providing of small holdings both to the local authority and the individual tenant. At the same time power was given to the local authority practically to terminate any experiment which was considered to be unsatisfactory or undesirable. The privilege was given in the Bill to co-operative friendly societies, where they satisfied the local authority as to their *status*, character, and membership, to receive first consideration from the local authority in the letting or selling of land. Subject to the approval of the Board of Agriculture, these societies would also have special power of borrowing under the arrangements of the Bill. In these ways elasticity was given all round. There was opportunity for starting small holdings at the lowest cost and in several different ways. The landlords would have security that their land would be worked in the best way and protected from deterioration through the action of the societies. He had always assented to the principle of giving freer loans to landowners, and one of the clauses of this Bill amended the Improvement of Land Act (1899) by further extending the period of repayment of loans for adapting their land for use as small holdings. It might be said that he neglected the tenants themselves in not providing borrowing powers for them. He looked to the development of co-operative credit as the sheet-anchor of success in future, just as he looked to the application of the co-operative principle to the working of the land to achieve those advantages in this country which had been gained in Denmark.

Some most interesting experiments had been carried out in Northamptonshire. In one case a farm of 400 acres had been bought outright for £16,000, and was now being worked on co-operative lines. Nearly £1,000 was being spent in wages, it was earning considerable profits, and the land was being worked in the best possible way. In the principal town in his constituency an admirable society had been at work for many years. It took a farm at the usual rent, sublet the land at slightly increased rents to tenants, but at rents vastly lower than those at which they could at that time get allotments and small holdings. In Lincolnshire and Norfolk similar experiments had been carried out, and the advantages were manifest. He submitted this Bill to the House as a moderate and honest attempt to deal frankly and fairly with the problem of bringing the land within the reach of the people by means of adequate machinery. It was not an oppressive Bill. It would give the owners the full value of the land at the time it was taken. He hoped the House would allow the Bill to be read a second time and referred to the Standing Committee on Trade, where details which might be open to criticism could be dealt with. He begged to move.

*MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland), in seconding the Motion, said there were three arguments in favour of this measure which he thought it was of importance to bring before the House, and especially before hon. Members opposite. Firstly, that during the twenty years included in the period between 1881 and 1901, about 1,000,000 people had left the land; that fact was shown by the figures given in the census tables for those years; secondly, that the practicability of small holdings had been inquired into on many occasions, and that the invariable verdict had been in favour of the system; there had been a Select Committee of that House in 1889, the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1895, and in 1903 a Committee of the Central Chamber of Agriculture had reported strongly in favour of small holdings as one of the most important cures for rural depopulation; and, thirdly, that the Act of 1892 had proved an almost complete failure. In ten years, out of 32,000,000 acres in England and Wales under crops or grass, only 700 acres had been obtained for small holdings. There were thousands of men throughout the country who would be glad to take up small holdings if they had the opportunity. Therefore it was incumbent on the Government to take further action along the lines of the Act of 1892, and so carry out a measure of reform which was as important as any that could demand the attention of the House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GRANT LAWSON, Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said the Bill now before the House had only been circulated that morning. It was a very considerable Bill. The Memorandum explanatory of the Bill was in the following terms—

> "The object of this Bill is to increase the facilities for the provision of small holdings by giving compulsory powers for the acquisition of land by hiring as well as purchase, under certain conditions, to all rural and urban authorities by enabling local authorities and co-operative and other societies and individual tenants to hire land with the option of ultimate purchase and by extending to local authorities, co-operative and other societies, and landowners, easier facilities for borrowing money and longer periods of repayment of loans."

Each of the topics stated in that Memorandum raised points on which several hours might be usefully spent, but as they only received the Bill that morning——

MR. CHANNING: Yesterday.

MR. GRANT LAWSON said it had only been circulated that morning, and it was impossible, at the close of a Friday sitting, adequately to discuss the highly contentious and doubtful provisions of the measure. The Bill affected no fewer than four Government Departments, namely, the Board of Agriculture, the Local Government Board, the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Treasury. The hon. Member who moved the Second Reading of the Bill had referred to the desirability of bringing into play in connection with the cultivation of the land the great human motive of rational self-interest. Nobody contended that small holdings were not a good thing, but the motive referred to operated equally in the case of the landlords, and, if the letting of the land as small holdings was the best way of getting most out of it, the landowners ought to do it. Reference had been made to the splendid success of small holdings in various parts of the country. If they were working so well in those parts, where was the need for compulsion? The question whether compulsion was or was not necessary had been very carefully considered by a Select Committee, and they reported that there was no case whatever for compulsion in this matter. The hon. Member for the Cleveland Division had referred to the Central Chamber of Agriculture. Could he produce any resolution of that body saying that there ought to be compulsion in the matter? It was the business of the Local Government Board to see that local authorities did not ruin themselves in land speculation, and nearly every week they had before them applications for loans from local authorities who wanted to secure land. The Board had also before them the figures showing how previous land speculations had turned out. They often involved loss to the ratepayers, but the proposal in the Bill was the worst of all. This was a proposal to speculate in agricultural land. No individual in that House speculated in agricultural land unless he was exceedingly well advised, and the suggestion now made was that the local authorities were to buy in a falling market a security which, in his opinion, had very little chance of being remunerative. In nearly every case loss would be involved. It was said that in the Bill power was given to resell or relet, but in a year or two's time a great deal of money might be required to improve or repair buildings. The local authority would have no money to spend on that work at all. There was no provision in the Bill for spending money on the holdings after they had acquired them or let them out.

MR. CHANNING: That is already covered by your own Act.

MR. GRANT LAWSON said there were different forms of compulsion, and no part of this Bill stated what form of compulsion was to be applied. Nobody who had referred to the results achieved in Denmark had said that compulsory powers were exercised there.

And, it being half-past Five of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.) asked whether the Chief Secretary for Ireland had any information with respect to the "jury-packing" at Cork Assizes to which he drew attention on the Motion for adjournment last night. He gave notice then that he would again refer to the subject this evening. He now asked the Chief Secretary whether he had taken steps to satisfy himself as to the accuracy of the statement he made last night, and whether he had any information to give or reply to make on the subject.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.) said the statement the hon. Member made was substantially correct. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Speak up.] The case was still proceeding, and, therefore, it was absolutely impossible, and to his mind it would be grossly unfair, to discuss the question now. He would tell the hon.

Gentleman why. It would be necessary for him in order to defend the action of the Crown solicitor to put forward various matters which were to form the basis of the action, and to enter into the merits of the case. He thought the hon. Gentleman would see that that would be most unfair, but an early opportunity, as the hon. Gentleman knew, would present itself on the Estimates, or in another way, to raise and discuss the question. This matter could not be discussed at present without entering into some of the facts, and, so far as he himself was concerned, he would never be a party to any discussion of any step in a case while it was pending, and while men who were on their trial might be prejudicially affected.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.) said there was no desire whatever to discuss the merits of the case. They had to consider this· Suppose that with the jury so selected the man who was on his trial was convicted, what remedy had that man? Of course, the Nationalist Members would raise the question again, but what they wanted to know now was why forty-six jurors out of eighty-one were asked to stand by.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said the practice of challenging the jury was utterly unknown in England. Mr. Justice Stephen had said that in his thirty years experience in England he had never known a jury challenged. Could the Attorney-General for Ireland give an English precedent for it? The right hon. and learned Gentleman could not give a case since 1866. It was utterly absurd to say that the law was the same for England and Ireland. The Attorney-General was right in saying that they could not discuss anything that was *sub judice.* But there was no etiquette of the House of Commons which could prevail against fraud, and the system of "jury-packing" was a system of fraud.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) said there was no desire to discuss the merits of the case. His hon. and gallant friend rose for the purpose of receiving from the Chief Secretary or the Attorney-General a definite statement as to who was responsible for the "jury-packing" that went on in Ireland in every political trial. He thought they were entitled to ask the Chief Secretary at the beginning of his official career whether he proposed to continue this infamous system of "jury-packing," which had brought disgrace on the judicial system of Ireland. On whose instructions did the Crown Solicitor challenge these jurors?

MR. ATKINSON: That is exactly what I cannot tell.

MR. MACVEAGH said he could state the reason. It was because they professed the religious faith of the overwhelming majority of the Irish people. That was the only reason. No, there was another reason. It was in order to secure a conviction. It was not for the purpose of obtaining a fair trial of this man. He was perfectly confident that it was the opinion of an overwhelming majority of the Members of the House that a conviction secured by such means was a disgrace, a scandal, and an absolute prostitution of justice. He hoped the Chief Secretary would get up and tell them whether his reign in Ireland was to be disgraced by a continuance of that abominable system of "jury-packing." They were entitled to know on whose authority these men were ordered to stand aside. Was the Attorney-General consulted in regard to the "jury-packing" in this case? Did the Attorney-General authorise the "jury-packing"? Did he accept responsibility for the instructions given to the Crown solicitor?

MR. ATKINSON said that he, of course, was responsible for the action of the Crown solicitor in the case; but that action was taken under the circular of instructions issued to Crown solicitors when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Montrose was Chief Secretary. There were no special directions given in the matter.

MR. MACVEAGH: Has the Solicitor-General interfered in this matter?

MR. ATKINSON: No, I do not think he has.

MR. MACVEAGH asked whether the Chief Secretary was prepared to tolerate this irresponsible action on the part of Crown solicitors. If the right hon. Gentleman began his career in Ireland by countenancing this system of "jury-packing" he could only promise that when he came to the end of his career he would be a sadder and a wiser man.

Question put, and agreed to.

NEW BILL.

PLACES OF WORSHIP ENFRANCHISEMENT.

Bill to provide for the enfranchisement of leasehold Places of Worship, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Samual Evans, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Mr. George White, Mr. Bright, Mr. Lloyd Morgan, Mr. J. H. Whitley, and Mr. Moss.

PLACES OF WORSHIP ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

"To provide for the enfranchisement of leasehold Places of Worship," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed." [Bill 123.]

DEATHS FROM STARVATION OR ACCELERATED BY PRIVATION (LONDON).

Address for "Return of the number of all Deaths in the Administrative County of London, in the year 1904, upon which a Coroner's Jury has returned a verdict of Death from Starvation or Death Accelerated by Privation, together with any Observations furnished to the Local Government Board by Boards of Guardians with reference to cases included in the Return (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 289, of Session 1904)."—(*Mr Talbot.*)

POST OFFICE WAGES.

Copy ordered, "of Memorandum of the Postmaster-General, dated March 24th, 1905, setting forth changes about to be made in the wages of certain classes of Post Office servants."—(*Lord Stanley.*)

Copy presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 98.]

Adjourned at twenty minutes before Six o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 27th March, 1905.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificate from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bill have been complied with:—Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1).

The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

Donovan's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. Ordered That the petition of Alice Edith Donovan be further considered to-morrow.

Tralee Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Metropolitan District Railway Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª; Amendments made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Preston Corporation (Ribble Navigation) Bill [H.L.]; Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway Bill [H.L.]; Great Central Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.]. Leave given to the Select Committee to adjourn over to-morrow.

Nine Mile Point Railway Bill [H.L.]; Barry Railway Bill [H.L.]; Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]; Rhymney Railway Bill [H.L.]. Report from the Committee of Selection, That the Lord Ellenborough and the Lord Ludlow be proposed to the House as members of the Select Committee on the said Bills in the place of the Duke of Bedford and the Lord Hylton; and that the Lord Ludlow be Chairman of the said Committee; read and agreed to.

Metropolitan Police Provisional Order Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and referred to the Examiners. (No. 38.)

PETITION.

SUNDAY CLOSING (SHOPS) BILL [H.L.].

Petition in favour of; of Irish Trades Union Congress; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Annual Report of proceedings under the Tithe Acts, 1836 to 1891, the Copyhold Act, 1894, the Inclosure Acts, 1845 to 1899, the Agricultural Holdings Acts, 1883 to 1900, the Drainage and Improvement of Land Acts, the Universities and College Estates Acts, 1858 to 1898, the Glebe Lands Act, 1888, etc., etc., for the year 1904.

Annual Reports of proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., etc., for the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL.

Returns of the receipts and expenditure of the General Medical Council and of the Branch Councils, also of receipts and expenditure of the Dental Registration Fund, for the year ended 31st December, 1904. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (ALIENS) BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894. Was presented by the Lord Muskerry; read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 37.)

STREET BETTING BILL [H.L.].

[Third Reading.]

Order of the Day for the Third Reading read.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 3ª."—(*Lord Davey.*)

On Question, Bill read 3ª.

The LORD CHANCELLOR (The Earl of **Halsbury**) then moved an Amendment to that part of Clause 1 which provides that for the purposes of the clause the word "street" shall include any highway or any public bridge, road, lane, footway, square, court, alley, or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not, or any vacant ground open to the public, common ground not used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto, or any space under a railway arch. The Amendment proposed the omission of the latter part of the definition, beginning with the words, "or any vacant ground." The Lord Chancellor said he was very sorry to differ from Lord James, who had moved at the last stage the insertion of the words he (the Lord Chancellor) now proposed to omit, on the question of the proper drafting of the Bill. He rather thought the question between them was not one of principle, but rather of drafting. The object of the Bill was to suppress betting in streets and public places. One of the difficulties with which Judges and magistrates had to deal was that language was sometimes made by statute to bear a meaning which did not properly belong to it. In this Bill the words "vacant ground open to the public" were used. What would their legal meaning be? There were pieces of gound which were vacant in the sense that no building was actually being erected upon them, but to which the public had no legal right of access. He would himself construe the words as meaning a place to which the public had a right of access, but, if they were construed to mean private property, that was an extension of the word street which seemed to him both ludicrous and very undesirable. The phrase "space under a railway arch" was also, he thought, open to a similar objection. If it meant merely the public highway beneath a railway arch, that was already a street according to the definition of the law. If it did not mean that, he asked their Lordships to consider the task which would fall upon the Judges and magistrates in construing the Act. The phrase "space under a railway arch" would apparently apply to every railway arch. With regard to common ground not used for the purpose of a racecourse, he had no doubt that what was in his noble friend's mind was horse-racing. But was it confined to that? Was the ground on which races took place between human creatures a racecourse? The title and policy of the Bill had reference to public places and the suppression of a public nuisance, and the language to which he had called attention was, he thought, calculated to puzzle those who were called upon to administer the Act.

Amendment moved—

"In Clause 1, page 2, line 12 to leave out from the word 'not' to the end of the clause."—(*The Earl of Halsbury.*)

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD said he was grateful to the Lord Chancellor for the changed position he had assumed. When his (Lord James's) Amendment was inserted on the previous occasion, the Lord Chancellor gave notice that he would move the rejection of the Bill on the Third Reading. He was glad that the noble and learned Lord was not taking this extreme course. The Lord Chancellor had said that this was entirely a question of drafting, but he thought the Amendment was moved in a different spirit. He had never yet known a Government whip to be issued in support of a question of drafting. This was more a question of substance. He suggested that the debate should be adjourned, so that they could try to carry out what was agreed to in substance. He did not think the House ought to be troubled with the question if it was merely one of drafting.

The EARL of HALSBURY said that if his noble friend would agree with him that the sole object of the clause was to deal with places to which the public had a right of access, he was prepared to agree with him.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD said that both in the Metropolis and other large towns there were vacant places which did not come within this description, which were made places of rendezvous for betting purposes. Frequently betting men did not make their bets in the street, but used these *de facto* vacant spaces. There they erected their pitches and gave notice to clerks in counting-houses and other business places that they could find them there. But his noble and learned friend said that because they were only *de facto* vacant, he would not include them. The Lord Chancellor asked the House to say they would sanction betting taking place on these places. He did not wish to come into conflict with the Lord Chancellor. If a poor person played pitch and toss on such a vacant space he would be arrested and put in prison; but they were asked to sanction the betting trade being carried on there by these fraudulent betting men, who did no good to anyone, but a great deal of harm. With regard to what the Lord Chancellor had said about the words "common ground not used for the purpose of a racecourse," Lord James of Hereford explained that he inserted those words to meet the views of Lord Newton, who said Epsom and Ascot racecourses were common ground, and it would not be right in a Bill of this kind to interfere with betting on such racecourses.

Lord DAVEY said he entirely sympathised with the object Lord James of Hereford had in view when he secured the insertion in the Bill of the words which the Lord Chancellor now proposed to delete. He thought the provision a wise one, and likely to prove a beneficial extension of the Bill, and have a useful operation. If the matter went to a division he would vote with Lord James, though at the same time he thought the language his noble and learned friend had introduced was open to criticism such as had been passed upon it by the Lord Chancellor. He regretted very much that the subject was not discussed as it ought to have been in the Standing Committee, but owing to some misunderstanding he was asked to adjourn the discussion until the Bill came up in their Lordships' House. If this question had been threshed out in the Standing Committee they would have had an opportunity of seeing whether, as a matter of drafting, some words might not be introduced which would equally well carry out the object which his noble and learned friend had in view, and at the same time not be open to the objections which had been made to them. It was too late now, he supposed, for that to be done, and therefore he must accept the words as they stood in the Bill. He had been subjected to some criticism outside the House for accepting what was now Clause 2 of the Bill on the Motion of his noble friend Lord Crewe. Clause 2 provided that—

> "Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to any ground used for the purpose of a racecourse or adjacent thereto on the days on which races take place."

His reason for accepting the Amendment was this, that the intention of the Bill was not to apply to racecourses. Whatever might be thought of the policy, their Lordships' House, having by its judicial decisions secured the use of the rings on racecourses for people of the wealthy class, would be legislating against the poor, as distinguished from the rich, if they prohibited betting on racecourses generally. That was what he had in his mind, and not any particular sympathy for the gentlemen who carried on this business on racecourses.

The LORD ARCHBISHOP of CANTERBURY was sure many of their Lordships who were laymen like himself would sympathise with him in the difficulty in which he found himself in understanding the legal bearing of the arguments on either side which had been adduced by such high authorities. He saw the difficulty that Lord James might find himself in in pressing for the adjournment of the debate after the words which had fallen from the Lord Chancellor as to the meaning he attached to the proposal as the words now stood. But he thought the right course would be for some one in an independent position to move the adjournment in order that it might be seen whether a form of words could be devised to meet the objections of the Lord Chancellor. It was obviously the case that there was a difference of opinion in some small degree in substance and in a much larger degree in drafting. Would it not be well, after what Lord Davey had said as to the inadvertence by which these points were not dealt with in the Standing Committee, that they should now go back a little rather than go over the whole ground again? He hoped the three noble Lords would take compassion upon those of their Lordships who were not learned in the law, and who found themselves, therefore, in considerable perplexity on this question, and allow the debate to be adjourned.

Moved, "That this debate be now adjourned."—(*The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury.*)

Lord ALVERSTONE remarked that pressure of public duties elsewhere had prevented him being present at the discussions during the earlier stages of this Bill. But he was bound to say that he sympathised very strongly indeed with some of the objections Lord James took to the Bill as it originally stood. It was true that in the Bill "street" was defined as including any highway or any public bridge, road, lane, footway, square, court, alley, or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not, and he believed that the great majority of cases would be hit by those words. But he had a good many of these cases before him from time to time in different shapes, and it was certainly true that a very large proportion of the evils Lord James had referred to did take place on certain pieces of land which could not be said to be either streets or thoroughfares, but a sort of "no man's land." It seemed to him that in some way or other words ought to be found to meet those cases. But he agreed that "any vacant ground open to the public," might be too wide. It seemed to him, reading this draft, that to cut the words out altogether would be not altogether satisfactory, and yet he could see that some difficulty must arise if they stood in exactly the form in which they were now.

Earl SPENCER was reluctant to step in in a legal dispute, but the example of the most rev. Primate had encouraged him to say a few words. He thought those Members of their Lordships' House who were not lawyers would be put in an exceedingly difficult position if the Question was now put, and the Amendment of the Lord Chancellor carried. If it was a mere question of drafting and the Lord Chancellor would agree to the adjournment so that the point could be dealt with, he would certainly advise the House to agree to an adjournment, in order that some satisfactory form of words might be found. The Bill proposed to do away with what was considered to be a very great evil. The definition, as put by Lord James, seemed to include more than a street or a public place, but the places so included were places where the evil of betting prevailed to an enormous extent. So far as he understood it, if the Amendment of the Lord Chancellor was agreed to, the House of Lords would be practically defending the use of such places for betting. Therefore they were in an exceedingly difficult position. But there would be no use in adjourning the matter if the Lord Chancellor would not agree that it was a mere question of drafting. If he did so agree, he hoped the matter would be adjourned. If the Lord Chancellor did not agree, then he (Earl Spencer) would divide against the Lord Chancellor's Amendment.

The Earl of HALSBURY: If we are agreed that, in pursuance of the title of the Bill, the prohibition is only to apply to every public place to which the public have a right of access, I shall be happy to adjourn the matter to devise some clause for the purpose. But if it is proposed to include places to which the public have no right of access, but which are accidentally open, I object, because you would be going a great deal further than the object of the Bill, which is the suppression of betting in streets and other public places.

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD thought that if the adjournment took place and they had an opportunity of meeting the Lord Chancellor there would be some chance of an agreement. At any rate, they would be in no worse position, and he hoped the adjournment would be agreed to.

The Earl of HALSBURY: Are we agreed that you only wish to deal with places to which the public have a right of access?

Lord JAMES of HEREFORD: No; I cannot say that we are. I stand by the Lord Chief Justice of England.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

Debate adjourned to Tuesday the 4th of April next.

STORES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I rise, in accordance with the Notice standing in my name on the Paper, to call attention to the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General on the Stores Accounts of the Army as to the wastage of supplies in South Africa and elsewhere; and to move to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, immediate action should be taken to inquire into the cause of such wastage in the past, with a view to the prevention of further wastage in the future."

I daresay that to some noble Lords on the Front Bench opposite the terms of this Resolution may be somewhat familiar. I say at once that I am not the originator of it. I have taken great pains to draft my Notice in a form which precludes any suspicion of a hostile attitude towards His Majesty's Government, and with this object I selected a form of words which I found on the Notice Paper of the House of Commons, and which were made use of by a very staunch supporter of His Majesty's Government and a gentleman whose fidelity to the Government is beyond all suspicion, for during the last two or three years he has received the honour of knighthood for political services. I have transcribed word for word the Notice of Motion standing on the Paper of the House of Commons in the name of the hon. Gentleman in question, and I am bound to assume that the originator of this Motion meant what he said, and was desirous that Parliament should at the earliest possible moment consider the Stores Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, and pass a Resolution inciting the Government to take immediate action thereon. But, my Lords, whatever his intention may have been, it is perfectly certain that the result of his notice of Motion was to prevent the House from having any opportunity of discussing this Report at all.

Now, it seems to me that when, at the instance, or with the consent, of Ministers a blocking Motion is put down in the House of Commons, it is the bounden duty of the Opposition in this House, in the interests of free speech, to transfer the blocking Motion which cannot be considered in the other House to this House, where it can be dealt with. On this side of the House our voting power is insignificant, but at all events we are free to say what we please on any subject we please, which is not always the case in another place, and I think that is a right we ought to zealously guard. I know perfectly well that since putting down my Motion the Prime Minister has changed his attitude and has promised a day for discussing this question in the House of Commons. Hearing that the Prime Minister had promised a day I had some notion of withdrawing my Motion, but my friends on this side have urged me to bring it on all the same, regarding it as a matter which ought to be discussed in this House. I think I ought to tell the noble Earl the Under-Secretary—he may not be aware of a statement which has been made in the other House—that there will be some sort of Interim Report by the Public Accounts Committee published possibly before the end of May. I think that is the earliest moment at which it will be out, and I am told that the Report will be based upon evidence by Sir William Butler, who is now engaged in considering these matters.

I do not think the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War will differ from me as to the principles which should guide us in discussing the responsibility of the War Office in respect of the wastage of war stores. No war has ever been waged without wastage. Public opinion will, I am sure, be willing to make very great allowances in respect of loss occasioned by muddle and confusion in the case of a great war; but it will make these allowances on two conditions, first, that at the earliest possible moment a full and searching investigation is made into the causes of the loss; and, secondly, that where the existing system is found to be at fault it shall be at once remedied. I will presently come to the question as to how far these conditions have been complied with. Meanwhile I do not think the noble Earl will deny that after making all reasonable allowances there still remains a good deal in the Report which requires to be explained.

The first thing I would observe is that the Auditor-General prefaces his Report with the statement that only certain portions of the Army accounts have been subjected to a detailed audit owing to the small staff available. I should like to hear what the noble Earl has to say as to this statement. Is the War Office going to see that the Auditor-General has a sufficient staff, and if not, why not?

Under the head of South African War Expenditure there is a balance in the Cape Paymaster's account of cash advanced, but not accounted for, of £588,294. In paragraph 62 (a) on page 231, the Auditor-General says with regard to that—

> "In reply to inquiries, I have been informed by the War Office that this charge is for cash issued and not repaid, and that there is no documentary evidence to show how it was expended."

He goes on to say—

> "It is understood, however, that the money was largely used in the purchase of stores required as a working capital for the railway."

Surely, my Lords, some sort of documentary evidence as to some part of this expenditure ought to be forthcoming. Again, on the next page, in paragraph 66, it is stated that a sum of £1,681,818 was paid to the British South Africa Company for the Rhodesian Field Force. Part of this money was paid in respect of mules. It is a very puzzling matter to understand what happened in regard to those mules. The Public Accounts Committee had this matter under consideration, and it is dealt with in their Report of last July. They say, on page 12—

> "Nine hundred and ninety-nine mules were shipped from New Orleans, of which 158 died on the voyage, and the remaining 841 cannot be traced beyond Beira, where they were landed."

They further add that—

> "No Imperial officer was present at Beira for political reasons."

On this matter the Public Accounts Committee say—

> "Your Committee regard this experience as another object-lesson of the wastage and unsatisfactory results which must follow from entrusting the duties of the War Office in Army administration to amateur bodies such as the Yeomanry Committee and the South African Committee."

Turning to the evidence produced before the Committee, it would seem that there is no absolute certainty that these mules ever left New Orleans or arrived at Beira. Questioned on this point, Sir Fleetwood Wilson said that the accounts given by the South African Committee—

> "Would not help us to trace missing mules. It is quite possible, it is presumable, and there is no reason to question, that they did send the mules, but they were lost."

Subsequently he said, with regard to these mules and stores landed at Beira—

> "It is very difficult to say if they (the mules) were actually in anybody's charge in the true sense of the word."

Again Mr. Chalmers says—

> "There is a large amount of stores not accounted for, harness and stores of various kinds which remained in South Africa, amounting in value to £252,880. These and also other supplies of provisions and forage are not yet accounted for in Supply Account."

Since July the Auditor-General observes that a small portion of these stores have been imperfectly vouched for, and that is as far as we can get.

Under the head of "Sales of Surplus Supplies" the Auditor-General in last year's Report referred to certain large sales and repurchases of forage, apparently entailing considerable loss, which required explanation, but no explanation was forthcoming; and last March the Auditor-General returned to the charge and drew the attention of the War Office to the different rates at which similar stores brought to account in the same month had been sold to and purchased from Contractor A. There was no reply from the War Office. Soon afterwards the Auditor-General came across another instance of the same kind, where a contractor had supplied oats at 17s. 10d. per 100 lbs. and bought them from the Army at the same station at 11s. per 100 lbs., and this transaction was accompanied by the remarkable statement that it was done—

> "To enable him to carry out his contract."

This statement naturally attracted the attention of the Auditor-General, but no answer to his query is forthcoming, and this amazing statement still remains upon record as the settled policy of the War Office without any explanation at all. I really think the Noble Earl the Under-Secretary ought to give us some explanation of these words to-night. It would appear from them that it is the settled policy of the War Office to buy dearly and sell cheaply in order to benefit the contractor; but, of course, that cannot be, and I think we are entitled to know the true meaning of those words. A somewhat similar transaction with another firm has led to a like result—inquiries by the Auditor-General, but no answer. That makes four occasions on which no answer has been received. Again, another firm—

> "Bought most of the surplus articles at heavy losses to the War Office."

Indeed, in some cases the Government actually received less than nothing for the articles sold, for the Customs duties amounted in some cases to more than the value of the articles. For instance, jam was sold at 2d. a tin containing a little over a pound, while the Customs duty was 2d. a pound, and to this the cost of railage has to be added. That was in Cape Colony. In Natal matters were even worse. There the Colony claims Customs duty in respect of jam at the rate of 2¼d. a lb., while the jam was sold for 1⅙d. and 1½d. a lb. I should like to know whether the colonies were pressed to reduce the Customs duty.

The War Office seems to have been done all round over jam. They were given short weight, and, having paid in Customs duty rather more than they got for it, they were further mulcted in the expense of carrying it by rail. It would have paid them better to have buried it. Surely there were several preferable courses open. The colonies might have been asked under the circumstances to forego part of the duty, for the jam was imported not to sell, but to give to our soldiers. If the colonies had refused we might have re-shipped the jam to England and sold it at home. The question of short weight in jam, which has been principally exercising the public mind, is thus stated by the Auditor-General on page 258, paragraph 19—

> "It was noticed in the Durban Supply Account for July, 1903, that 337,704 lbs. of jam had been written off charge under the following circumstances. On the sale of surplus jam remaining on hand after the close of the war, the contractor who purchased it found that large quantities of tins contained only twelve ounces of jam; and as 1,350,816 of these tins were held on charge as containing one pound of jam each, it became necessary to write off charge 337,704 lbs. in respect of the short weight of four ounces in each tin. It was seen, on reference to some of the contracts for purchase of jam, that they included a provision that it should be supplied in tins containing one pound each. I therefore requested that information might be furnished as to the terms of the contracts in these cases, and as to the examination given to ensure that full contract weights were delivered; also whether any other cases of short weight had been brought to notice, and, finally, whether the deficiency was investigated at the time by a Court of Inquiry, and reported to the Treasury. To these inquiries, which were addressed to the War Office on 26th April, 1904, I have, up to the present, received no reply."

I am told that the noble Earl the Under-Secretary will be able to offer to the House a satisfactory explanation with regard to the short weight of jam. I am very glad to hear it, but I think the House is also entitled to some explanation as to why the queries of the Auditor-General, which were sent to the War Office on 26th April, have remained unanswered up to this time.

In the case of jam, there is this remarkable circumstance to be considered in addition to what I have already stated. It has been elicited from the Secretary of State that the jam was bought through the Agents-General of Australia. This is colonial preference with a vengeance, for Australia, so far from being a jam exporting country, does not produce enough jam for its own consumption, and imports jam and sweet-stuffs from England to the extent of £100,000 a year. Again, under the head of "Clothing Accounts," it seems that 20,000 surplus suits were sold by tender, and the Auditor-General remarks that the new suits did not even realise half the normal peace contract price paid for them,—viz., 13s. a suit. Therefore the suits were sold at between 6s. and 7s. each. Why, I ask, should they have been sold at this enormous sacrifice? Why could they not have been kept in stock till they were wanted? Under the head of "Ordnance Store Accounts" the Auditor-General observes that the Public Accounts Committee, in their Report last July, stated that no improved system of packing ammunition had yet been devised by the War Office, but the subject was under their consideration. It is apparently still under their consideration, for in answer to the inquiries of the Auditor-General on this point no replies have been received. Yet it is acknowledged that the deterioration in over 50,000,000 rounds of ammunition was to a great extent due to imperfect packing. It appears to me that the War Office have had plenty of time in which to devise some better means of packing.

I might multiply instances of the apparently reckless manner in which stores of every description were disposed of at what I must call rummage-sale prices, but I think I have said enough to show how serious the allegations are that the War Office have to meet. Large sums of money have been expended, and there is no evidence, or, at all events, no documentary evidence, to show how it has been expended. Eight hundred and forty-one mules have mysteriously disappeared and cannot be traced from the moment they were landed—if indeed they were ever landed at all, which, though probable, does not seem to be capable of strict proof. These mules, and stores of all kinds to a large amount, were landed under nobody's charge, and there is nobody responsible for their loss. Here the Public Accounts Committee put their finger on the weak spot, and, as we have seen, attribute the loss and confusion to the War Office having entrusted administrative duties to amateur bodies such as the South African Committee and the Yeomanry Committee. Then there are the sales of forage at 10s. and 11s. per 100 lbs., which seems in some cases to have been brought back again from the same contractor at the same station for 17s. 10d. and 17s. 8½d. per 100 lbs; and, as we have seen in one case, a truly amazing reason for this proceeding is given—namely, that it was done to enable the contractor to fulfil his contract.

The case of the jam is no less remarkable. In the first place, it is a strange proceeding to go to Australia to provide jam for British troops, inasmuch as Australia buys a good part of the jam she consumes from England, not producing sufficient for her own consumption, much less to export to South Africa. If it pays Australia to buy jam in England, surely it would pay us to export our own jam to South Africa. I do not see why the British taxpayer should be mulcted for the benefit of the Australian contractor. In the next place, on attempting to sell the surplus jam it was found that some contractors had given short weight, which the military authorities had never discovered. In this connection one would like to know what measures were taken to examine the stores and check the quantities. And, to crown all, a large quantity of this surplus jam was sold at a price which did not even suffice to pay the Customs duty, let alone the railway carriage. This is not a creditable state of things. However much we may concede as extenuating circumstances as regards high prices given for stores wanted in an emergency, it is reasonable to expect that the sale of surplus stores should be carried on on something in the nature of business principles. Some of the transactions I have mentioned are not of a character that can be excused on the gound of campaigning emergencies, and even if this excuse were valid it would be subject to the two conditions I mentioned at the beginning—namely, first, that at the earliest possible moment a searching investigation should be made, and, secondly, that where the existing system has been found to be at fault it should be at once amended.

How stands the Government record with regard to these two conditions? The gravamen of the charge against the War Office is not so much that they did foolish things during the war in the matter of stores, but that after the war was over foolish proceedings went on occurring. Worse than that, the full and searching investigation which ought to have begun at once, was put off till the pressure of public opinion was too strong to be resisted, and, moreover, even when a weak point had been discovered, the War Office did not always take the trouble to put matters right. For instance, in the case of the deterioration of ammunition by bad packing, in July last the War Office were engaged in considering a better system of packing, and they are still considering. Surely it is time they came to some conclusion in the matter. Again, take the case of jam. The War Office must have known for a long time, certainly over a year, that some contractors had given short weight, in some cases only 12 ozs. to the lb. On April 26th last year the Auditor-General asked the War Office whether they were making any investigation. He received no answer. The Secretary of State was interrogated a few days ago, and his answer was that inquiries have been going on for four weeks; that is to say, no inquiry at all was instituted for nearly a year after the Auditor-General had reminded the War Office of the fact and pressed them to make an inquiry. This is a very bad case, as it involves a charge of dishonesty; yet the Secretary of State when first questioned had not got so far in his inquiry as even to be able to give the names of the accused contractors. The inquiry should have been completed long ago, and the contractors either condemned or exonerated.

The excuse given by the Secretary of State for not concerning himself to identify the firms which supplied short weight was remarkable. He said—

> "As the orders were placed with the colonial authorities through their Agents-General, the names of the colonial firms who enabled the Colonies to carry out their engagements did not concern the War Office."

Surely it is the duty of the War Office to press for compensation from the defaulting contractors. I do not suppose for a moment that the Colonies desire to shield any delinquent contractor. Indeed, the Agents-General have very properly said that Australia is prepared to pay compensation if their contractors are shown to be in default. The House will observe that the importance of the Auditor-General's Report only began to dawn upon the War Office after it had become the occasion of inconvenient Questions being asked. At first the Prime Minister sheltered himself from discussion behind a blocking Motion, and it was only a very few days ago that he acknowledged the importance of the subject and promised a day for discussion. When Ministers can read a document like the Auditor-General's Report and discover nothing particular in it until they are told, their perceptions must have become singularly obtuse.

It would seem that the ordinary administrative duties of the War Office have been for some time past carried out in a lax fashion. The heads of the Department have, it would seem, been too busily engaged in contriving grandiose schemes of Army reform to concern themselves about the humbler task of supervising the humdrum routine business of office, and that, I take it, has been at the root of the amazing state of things disclosed by the Report of the Auditor-General. The high authorities at the War Office are like the astronomer in the fable who, while gazing at the stars, fell into a well at his feet. The noble Earl will have to address himself to two direct questions. He must first deal with the muddle and confusion that reigned during the war and for some time after. His next task will be to justify the dilatory proceedings of the War Office, their neglect to answer the pressing questions of the Auditor-General, and the length of time they have taken to make such a simple reform as the devising of a system to pack ammunition which would do away with a great deal of the enormous waste suffered by its deterioration. My complaint is that they have not taken in hand such matters as this strenuously. They have been content to let things slide until public opinion has forcibly prodded them on. I think the House will be doing a service to the War Office and to the country by passing the Resolution I have put down on the Paper, the originator of which is, as I have said, a staunch supporter of His Majesty's Government. The passing of such a Resolution will stiffen the War Office in the good intentions which I give them the credit of having formed, and the action of your Lordships in applying this friendly stimulus will certainly commend itself to the public.

Moved to resolve, "That, in the opinion of this House, immediate action should be taken to inquire into the cause of the waste of supplies in South Africa and elsewhere, with a view to the prevention of further wastage in the future."—(*The Lord Monkswell.*)

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of DONOUGHMORE): My Lords, I do not deny the importance of the subject which the noble Lord has raised. At the same time I think he will agree with me that it is rather a difficult one to discuss at this moment. The noble Lord mentioned a circumstance of which, I confess, I was not aware. I did not know that it was the intention of the Public Accounts Committee to furnish to the House of Commons an Interim Report on this subject, but surely that very admission by the noble Lord must exemplify the difficulty in which your Lordships find yourselves in discussing this subject to-day. It should be borne in mind that the Comptroller and Auditor-General's Report is not a Report submitted to the War Office, but to Parliament. It is the brief, so to say, of the members of the Public Accounts Committee in investigating the accounts presented to Parliament. The Public Accounts Committee go into these matters in very great detail, and until their Report is received it is very difficult for us to make up our minds as to what are the facts and what are the fictions relating to any question that may arise.

The noble Lord opposite is, I think, very hard upon us. He charges the War Office with being very dilatory in dealing with the whole matter. It is important, I think, in a case such as this that your Lordships should keep the main facts in your minds, and I will venture briefly to sketch them in order to show that we have not been as dilatory as the noble Lord thinks. There were, of course, very large surpluses of stores at the end of the war. The rule was, I understand, to have four months supplies in hand. When the war came to an end demobilisation was very rapid, and we were left with a very large surplus of stocks. The question arose, what were we to do with them? We might have brought them home for sale; but we believed that to adopt such a course would have been very expensive. There would have been the cost of collecting at ports, of putting the supplies on board ship, and of transport home, and it was pointed out to us that the authorities in South Africa were of opinion that the cheapest thing would be to get rid of the surplus stores in South Africa. It was believed that we should be able to do so at a price which would warrant us in taking that course, while at the same time saving heavy charges for storage, deterioration, cost of transport, and so forth. The difference between the selling and buying price was regarded by the authorities in South Africa as justified by the above considerations, and there appeared to be no ground to question this conclusion at home in view of the circumstances then disclosed. Various queries were made on transactions in South Africa at the time—I am speaking of a year and a-half ago—and in every case the explanation given was on the lines I have just sketched to your Lordships, and was accepted by us as satisfactory.

The later cases, the cases which did not come to our notice till last autumn, did not so satisfy us. We were not satisfied with certain refunds made to contractors which did not seem to be governed by the terms of the contract. We were not satisfied on several points, and therefore we made up our minds to have further inquiries, not only into those cases, but into all cases. I repeat that the earlier cases were entirely satisfactory; the later cases were not satisfactory, and this fact threw doubt upon the earlier cases, and we therefore decided to re-open the whole question. It was not a question of accounting, but one that concerned competence and honesty; and it was not, therefore, a fit subject to be inquired into simply by a Finance Branch at the War Office. For that reason my right hon. friend the Secretary of State appointed a Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir William Butler, to consider the whole case, and that Committee was given power to call witnesses. I understand that they have called a large number of witnesses and are going very thoroughly into the whole question, but really until we receive the Report of the Committee it is very difficult for me to give detailed replies to some, at any rate, of the queries addressed to me by the noble Lord opposite. Sir William Butler's Committee, I believe, is not expected to report for some weeks, but it has come to my knowledge, and also, I notice, to the knowledge of the noble Lord opposite, that Sir William Butler has already been called as a witness by the Public Accounts Committee. I understand that he was present at the meeting of the

Committee last Friday. Anyhow, it is open to the Public Accounts Committee to call him as a witness; and that is the only proper way, I submit, in which the facts can become known to your Lordships and the public as well as to the War Office. I trust, therefore, there will be no prejudging of this matter. No one has been proved guilty of anything yet. There is ground for suspicion, and there is also ground for inquiry. That inquiry is being carried out by the accounts branch in South Africa, by the accounts branch here in London, and by Sir William Butler's Committee, all focussing in the inquiry of the Public Accounts Committee. We are every bit as anxious to know the facts as the noble Lord opposite.

I now come to some of the details referred to by my noble friend. First of all he is very hard on us, because, as he says, we have been very dilatory in replying to the Auditor-General's queries. The noble Lord will, I am sure, realise that every case which the Auditor-General has queried is from its every essence a difficult one.

A NOBLE LORD: Simple as anything.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: I think not. They are all cases that have occurred in South Africa, and we have had to make inquiries out there in order to enable us to reply to the queries. We have had to send for copies of contracts and documents, and we found in many cases that no such documents existed at all. We are doing our best to expedite inquiry. A further cause of delay occurred in this way. It was most important that all documents and contracts should be before Sir William Butler's Committee, and therefore a number of papers were retained at the War Office after they were received for the use of this Committee, but my right hon. friend the Secretary of State has stated in another place that he has given directions for copies of the contracts to be sent to the Comptroller and Auditor-General.

Now I come to the much discussed question of jam. As to the first point raised by the noble Lord opposite, that of the Customs duty, I may tell him that we are trying very hard to get that duty back from the Colonial Government, and negotiations to that end are still proceeding. With reference to the question of weight, I think I shall be able to reassure your Lordships. First of all, I am informed that none of the jams supplied was in tins containing only 12 oz. Part of the supply was in tins containing 16 oz., but the bulk was supplied in "nominals"—that is to say, tins containing either 14 oz. or 28 oz., 1 lb. or 2 lb. "nominals." These "nominals" were either ordered as such, or were in execution of orders for net weights. In the latter case an extra number of "nominals" was supplied equivalent to the deficiency. In all cases the country received the full quantity of jam paid for. When, however, the sale to which the Comptroller and Auditor-General refers in his Report took place in South Africa, the jam was sold by net weight and not by tins. Any apparent shortage is attributed in the first place to the fact that undoubtedly the climate would be expected to cause shrinkage. I am informed by officers who were in South Africa that in many cases when they opened their tins of jam they had to cut off a considerable thickness of sugar which had crystallised at the top. This was a shrinkage due to the climate, and it may in many cases have caused loss of weight. In the second place, the local military authorities, under a misapprehension, treated the tins as containing a full pound of jam each, and that is the reason why, on subsequent investigation, it was necessary for us to make a refund to the contractors who had bought these tins as being 16 oz. tins. It was simply a mistake by our officers out there, which we had, of course, to rectify. The noble Lord asks why jam was bought from Australia, and quotes the fact that 100,000 lbs. of jam is imported into Australia every year. I have visited Australia, and I cannot imagine that 100,000 lbs. of jam can possibly represent the whole consumption of that continent.

Lord MONKSWELL: I did not say it did.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: I remember while in Tasmania noticing the enormous quantities of fruit grown there, and I think an Australian would be very much upset if he were calmly informed that Australia was a jam importing country only, and was not a fit country to which to go to purchase jam. I understand that the jam was purchased in the Colonies at the request of the Colonies, who were very anxious to take part in provisioning the British Army. I do not think it was an entirely unreasonable thing that we should have met them in that matter. The noble Lord asked whether the War Office were going to see that the Comptroller and Auditor-General had a sufficient staff. I would point out that this has nothing whatever to do with the War Office. It is not our business; the Comptroller and Auditor-General does not belong to the War Office, he belongs to Parliament.

Lord MONKSWELL: I quite recognise that. It was my mistake. But you might press the Treasury.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: It is not the Treasury, but Parliament, and we are always pressing Parliament. Then the noble Lord asked a Question with reference to the mules, and stated that there was no proof that the animals ever landed at Beira. But we have a record of their being in camp up country. I have made inquiries, and am told that we have a letter stating that the particular vessel under review lost 141 mules on the voyage, that on landing thirty-six more died, and that twenty-two more were lost, leaving 799 mules accounted for in camp. Of these 728 were sent for the use of the Rhodesian Field Force, the remaining seventy-one having died. These particulars, combined with the fact that the Comptroller and Auditor-General in his Report accepts the statement—on page 233—that the mules were landed in South Africa, clearly establishes the claim that the mules did arrive. In reply to the noble Lord's Question as to the statement that sales of forage took place to a contractor at certain prices "to enable him to carry out his contract," I would inform him that this is one of the cases which have been specially referred to Sir William Butler's Committee, and we look to the Report of that Committee to fully explain all the circumstances. As regards the packing of ammunition, we have been considering that matter for a long time. I was down at Woolwich last Autumn, and saw a new form of box for packing ammunition, but I understand the matter has not been definitely settled yet. It should not be forgotten that the deterioration of these 50,000.000 rounds of ammunition was not entirely due to bad packing. Included in this amount was ammunition picked up on the veldt which had been dropped from soldiers' pouches, and therefore the deterioration was not surprising.

I admit that the prices we received for re-sales were not high; but the noble Lord will, I am sure, recognise that where there is no demand it is often difficult to get any price at all, and, in cases where it is cheaper to sell than to move, the seller has to take the best price he can get. Every case has to be treated on its merits, and the only thing to do is to try your hardest to get the best possible price you can in each individual case. I think the noble Lord will admit that we are meeting him by making inquiries. The fullest inquiries are being made, and, whatever may be the result of those inquiries, I can only repeat the statement made by my right hon. friend in another place that if any person is proved guilty he will be dealt with without fear or favour. The noble Lord says inquiry may be trusted to prevent recurrences of these incidents in future. Inquiry, of course, always helps if it results in useful information, but that is not all. We think we can do a great deal to avoid a recurrence of such cases in any future war, and we have drawn up a new system for supply accounting in time of war, which will ensure greater simplification, and therefore a more satisfactory method of dealing with such matters. We have also under consideration the formation of a new accounts department, or financial branch of the Army, which will go to the seat of war. This branch will in no way decrease the responsibility of supply officers for purchase and sale of stores, but they will in future have at their elbow, if they require it, the benefit of the advice of financial experts. There will also be this safeguard on behalf of the public, that the review of all cases in time of war will take place on the spot, and not, as now, months afterwards. I do not wish to go into the details of the new organisation. They are already in your Lordships' possession in the Memorandum of my right hon. friend; but I trust I have said enough to show that if any fraud has taken place we are hot upon the track of it, and if what has taken place has been due to ignorance, we are, I hope, greasing the wheels in order to carry matters in the right direction to avoid this in the future. I hope that in the circumstances my noble friend will not see any necessity to press his Motion.

LORD MONKSWELL: My Lords, I do not propose to press my Motion. I only knew this afternoon that Sir William Butler was to be examined before the Public Accounts Committee and that matters were in fair train for the issuing of a Report before the end of May. With one or two of the observations which the noble Earl made I cannot quite agree. I do not think he has fully explained the wastage in regard to the jam. It seems to me that a large quantity of pots of jam which ought to have contained 14 oz. only contained 12 oz. of eatable jam, the remainder not being up to the mark. When he says the net weight was made up, I suppose he means the net weight taking into consideration in that net weight the solid stuff at the top of the jam which was not eatable; so that apparently there was a certain amount of wastage, and when the jam was sold again you had to take off 2 oz. in every 14 oz.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: In some cases.

LORD MONKSWELL: I think it is rather strange that the noble Earl should still stick to his guns with regard to buying jam from Australia. Surely it is a strange proceeding to go to Australia to provide jam for British troops inasmuch as Australia buys a good part of the jam she consumes from England, not producing enough for her own consumption. It would undoubtedly have been cheaper to have used English jam. As to the mules, I am very glad to hear they did arrive, but there is no evidence of that in the Auditor-General's Report. I am also glad to hear from the noble Earl that the War Office are considering the question of packing ammunition and will shortly come to some conclusion with regard to that. But the noble Earl has not answered my Question with regard to the sale of new suits at half their contract price. I congratulate him on the establishment of the new supply accounting branch and the new accounts branch. I think he has answered me as fully as he could in the circumstances, and I withdraw my Motion.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

MILITARY BUILDINGS AT ST. LUCIA.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I rise to ask the Under-Secretary of State for War what expenditure and what contract liabilities have been incurred for the barracks, hospital, and other buildings erected by the military authorities at St. Lucia during the last three years; whether it is the fact that, in spite of the decision to withdraw British troops from the West Indies, the works are still being continued at St. Lucia; and, if so, why, and to what use it is intended to put these buildings in the future.

This question raises an important point of policy and also refers to a large expenditure of money. I think it is only fair that I should state the reason why I have placed it on the Paper. I do not pretend that it is based upon first-hand information. It is fifteen years since I was at St. Lucia, and these buildings were not then thought of; but it so happens that at this moment I have a great personal friend in the West Indies who is a solid and trustworthy person, and not one likely to be led astray by mere gossip. Writing to me on February 22nd, he describes a visit he paid to these barracks and buildings, and goes on to say—

> "Even the colonists who have profited by the expenditure openly laugh at the absurdity of having erected expensive barracks and a large hospital for troops within the last three years and then deciding that they shall not be used. I am told that in this island alone over £1,000,000 sterling has been so spent. The same thing on a greater or less scale has been going on all round. A year or two ago a sort of

funicular tramway was made from the harbour to the barracks at the top of the hill. It was so badly constructed and engineered that a serious accident happened the first time it was used, and it has never been tried since, and the thousands which it cost have been thrown away."

A week later he writes to me as follows—

"Since writing I have heard that the barracks hospital, and other buildings erected by the military authorities at St. Lucia have cost £3,000,000. Apparently, under their contract they have no power to stop the work, so that although they have decided to remove the troops and have no further use for the barracks it is cheaper to continue to build rather than pay heavy penalties for breach of contract."

I think your Lordships will agree that even if there is only a moderate amount of foundation for the statements contained in these letters, I was justified in bringing the matter before your Lordships' notice for the purpose of eliciting information with regard to it. If I might add one further Question to those on the Paper, I would ask the noble Earl how far the Colonial Office was responsible for the initiation of these works, and whether the late Colonial Secretary was responsible for the works when they were undertaken.

THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, I am happy to be able to inform my noble friend that the case is not quite such a grave one as his friend thinks. I am informed that the expenditure at St. Lucia during the last three years is £133,086.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: Will the noble Earl give me the total expenditure on these buildings?

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: I have not got the total expenditure. The noble Lord in his Question asks me to state what expenditure has been incurred during the last three years, and that figure I have given him. I shall be glad to get him the other figures if he requires them. It is not the fact that the works are still being continued at St. Lucia, except that we felt it would be unwise to allow any building to remain not watertight. Therefore, we are completing any particular single building

that was not finished in order to make it watertight in case it is ever required. We do not, however, anticipate that it will be required in the early future. The noble Lord next asked to what use it was intended to put these buildings in the future. As far as I know it is not intended to use them for any purpose at all. We are going to put caretakers in and leave them in their charge. The noble Lord will, I am sure, understand that in making a building watertight we are not necessarily committed to carry out the whole scheme originally intended if St. Lucia had been retained as a defended port. It is not our usual custom to make contracts for entire schemes, but for individual buildings or groups of buildings, and I do not anticipate that the sum necessary to finish off these buildings and make them watertight will be very large. As to the attitude of the Colonial Office in this matter—I am speaking without book, because the noble Lord did not give me notice of this Question—I should think that the Colonial Office had nothing to do with it at all. These buildings were part of a scheme of naval and military policy. I shall be prepared to make further inquiry in the matter if the noble Lord wishes it.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, I made some remarks the other night on the expenditure at St. Lucia, and my noble friend the First Lord of the Admiralty in his reply rather denied that there had been any large expenditure such as I hinted at. I immediately replied, "Not on the Navy Estimates, but on the other Estimates." I think we ought to have from the noble Earl a full account of the total expenditure on these buildings. The fact that the Government have spent large sums of money on these barracks and other buildings, and have now decided not to use them, is a strong condemnation of their previous policy. The noble Earl says he does not believe that the Colonial Office had anything to do with this. If I remember rightly there was a very important Joint Committee, which I knew very well when I was at the Admiralty—the Colonial Defence Committee, on which the Admiralty, the War Office, and the Colonial Office were represented—which constantly went into all questions of this sort, and they were, I imagine, responsible for this large expenditure. I am glad to hear the promise which has been given by the noble Earl that we shall have a full account of the monies that have been spent on these works.

The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of Lansdowne): My Lords, the Question on the Paper had reference to the expenditure during the last three years, and that Question was answered categorically by my noble friend. Of course, the other information can easily be provided, and I dare say it will show, as the noble Earl supposes, that very large sums of money have been spent in past years on St. Lucia. The fact is, there has been a change of naval policy, and these things will happen. If the noble Earl suggests that after we have spent a great deal of money on naval bases in different parts of the world, we are bound to stick to those naval bases and go on spending money upon them, I must take leave to differ from him.

Earl SPENCER: I particularly said the other night that I did not condemn the course taken by the Government, but that I thought that after a deliberate policy had been adopted a full and ample justification of the change should be made.

***The Marquess of LANSDOWNE:** I have no doubt that the change of policy could be fully explained, if desired, by persons claiming more expert knowledge in these matters than I possess. I believe the noble Earl is quite right when he says that the expenditure incurred in past years was incurred after examination and discussion by that very important and useful body, as it then was, the Colonial Defence Committee, on which all the Departments responsible were represented.

House adjourned at five minutes past Six o'clock, till to-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 27th March, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment) Bill [not amended]. Considered; to be read the third time.

South Metropolitan Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Ilfracombe Harbour and Improvement Bill; Otley Gas and Improvement Bill. Reported from the Police and Sanitary Committee, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill, with Amendments.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act for authorising the Entre Rios Railways Company, Limited, to increase its capital, and to fund the arrears of dividends on its preference shares by the issue of fully-paid second preference stock; and for other purposes." [Entre Rios Railways Bill [Lords.]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for authorising the Cordoba and Rosario Railway Company, Limited, to increase its capital, and to fund the arrears of dividends on its preferred shares by the issue of fully-paid second preferred shares; and for other purposes." [Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for the abandonment of the railways and works authorised by the Hastings Harbour District Railway Acts, 1897 and

1903." [Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [Lords.]

Entre Rios Railways Bill [Lords]; Cordoba and Rosario Railway Bill [Lords]; Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Altrincham; and Bermondsey and Rotherhithe; to lie upon the Table.

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN.

Petition from Aberdeen, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MEDICAL COUNCILS.

Accounts presented, for 1904, of the General Medical Council and Branch Councils, and of the Dental Registration Fund [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

RAILWAYS ABANDONMENT.

Copy presented, of Report by the Board of Trade respecting the Hastings Harbour District Railway (Abandonment) Bill and the objects thereof [pursuant to Standing Order 158B]; referred to the Committee on the Bill.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Copy presented, of Annual Report of Proceedings under the Tithe Acts, Copyhold Act, 1894, Inclosure Acts, and other Acts for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

Copy presented, of Annual Reports of Proceedings under the Diseases of Animals Acts, the Markets and Fairs (Weighing of Cattle) Acts, etc., for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND) (INSPECTORS AND AUDITORS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th February; *Mr. J. P. Farrell*]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (EMPLOYMENT OF TROOPS OUT OF INDIA).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 20th March; *Sir Walter Foster*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 99.]

VACCINATION EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES.

Address for "Return of the Circular Letter on the subject of Vaccination Exemption Certificates, issued by the Home Office on the 1st day of September, 1904."—(*Mr. Weir.*)

ALLOTMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Return ordered, "showing (1) the proceedings of parish councils in regard to Allotments and Common Pasture under Section 26 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894; and (2) the proceedings of county councils in regard to representations by parish councils for orders under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1894, Section 26, authorising land to be taken on lease compulsorily for Allotments since the date of the last Return on the 8th day of July last (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 245, of Session 1904)."—(*Mr. Eugene Wason.*)

FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Copy ordered, "of Monthly Accounts relating to the Trade and Commerce of certain Foreign Countries and British Possessions."—(*Mr. Bonar Law.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Discontinuance of Barrack Building owing to Abandonment of Army Corps Scheme.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War what barracks and other buildings have been discontinued in consequence of the abandonment of the Army Corps scheme; and what money has been already expended upon such buildings.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) No barracks or other buildings have been discontinued. The construction of certain barracks at one time contemplated has not been proceeded with.

*South African War Contracts—Short-weight Jam.

MR. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the statement of the Comptroller and Auditor-General that on the sale of surplus jam after the South African War 1,350,816 tins, supposed to contain 1 lb. of jam, contained only 12 oz. each; what percentage of the quantity supplied is represented by the 1,350,816 tins; who were the contractors who supplied this jam; what steps, if any, have been taken to obtain repayment of the amount overcharged; whether these contractors are still on the list of Government contractors; if so, why have they not been removed from the list.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The orders for the jam were placed through the Agents-General for the Colonies, and the names of the contractors are not known in this country. I am not yet in a position to give further information on the other points raised in the Question. This is one of the questions which is still *sub judice.*

Transvaal Loan—Payment of Premiums to Transvaal Treasury.

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the guarantors of the first instalment of £10,000,000 of the £30,000,000 Transvaal Loan stipulated as a condition of their guarantee that any premiums which might be received on the issue of any part of the £30,000,000 should be paid into the Transvaal Treasury; and whether this condition was agreed to by Lord Milner.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) It was stated by the guarantors in a letter to Lord Milner that this was so understood, and Lord Milner informed them, in reply, that, although he was not in a position to commit His Majesty's Government, he believed it was never intended that His Majesty's Government should receive under the arrangement more than £30,000,000. I would refer the hon. Member to pages 2 and 4 of Cd. 1895.

Water Supply of Ross-shire Schools.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state the names of the schools on the mainland of Ross-shire which have water laid on to the premises, and those which have not.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) I cannot at present give the hon. Member the information he desires, but as soon as it has been obtained I shall be ready to communicate it to him.

Return of Burgh Charities (Scotland).

MR. HALDANE (Haddingtonshire): To ask the Lord-Advocate whether he will supplement the Return of Parochial Charities in Scotland, promised in his Answer to the Question on the subject of July 11th† last, by adding a Return of Burgh Charities.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) Before giving a final reply to the Question the Secretary for Scotland would desire to be further informed as to the extent and purport of the Return of Burgh Charities now desired. Perhaps the right hon. Member would confer with me on the subject.

Operations of Bond Investment Companies.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he will cause inquiries to be made as to the operations of bond investment companies, and the necessity, if any, which exists for Government supervision of their transactions.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Question asked by the hon. Member requires consideration, and I shall be glad if he will repeat his Question in a week's time.

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* We are informed that this Question and Answer were accidentally omitted from the Votes of March 16th.

† See (4) *Debates,* cxxxvii., 1187.

New Patent Rules.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if the new Patent Rules for 1905 have been laid upon the Table, and if opportunity will be afforded of discussing them before the expiration of the statutory period, and when this date will be reached.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Rules were laid upon the Table of the House on February 15th, and the period of forty days within which the House may resolve that the Rules or any of them ought to be annulled expires to-day.

Import Duty on, and Prices of, Wheat in England, France, Germany, and Italy.

Dr. SHIPMAN (Northampton): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade what were the duties on imported wheat per imperial quarter in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Italy, respectively, during the year 1904; what were the average prices of wheat per imperial quarter in each of those countries during that year; and what were the estimated percentages of imported wheat in the total wheat supply of each of those countries during the same period.

(*Answered by Mr Bonar Law.*)

	United Kingdom.	France.	Germany.	Italy.
Duty on imported wheat per imperial quarter in 1904	nil	12s. 3d.	7s. 7d.	13s.
Average price of wheat per imperial quarter in 1904	28s. 4d. (English *Gazette* price) 30s. (Average import value)	36s. 9d.	38s. (Berlin price) 36s. 9d. (Breslau price)	41s. 11d.
Percentage of imports to total supply (cereal year 1903–4)	82	2·9	37·2	13·4

Telegraphic Communication between Wolf or Longships Lighthouses and the Shore.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether there is telegraphic communication of any kind between the Wolf or Longships lighthouses and the shore; and, if not, whether it can be established at an early date in view of the recent loss of life in the wreck of the ship "Khyber."

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) No, Sir, there is no telegraphic communication between these two lighthouses and the shore; but both stations are able, owing to their proximity to the mainland, to communicate with the shore on clear nights by means of special signalling lamps provided for the purpose. Communication from the Longships can also be made by day by semaphore or explosive rocket, and by night by explosive rocket. As the hon. Member is aware, communication by wireless telegraphy is about to be established between six lightships and the shore, and if the experiment is found to be successful the system will, no doubt, be extended to other outlying light-stations. I can only say, at present, that the case of these two lighthouses will receive consideration.

Voluntary Subscriptions to, and Cost of Maintenance of, Non-provided Schools in England and Wales.

DR. SHIPMAN: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education what was the total amount of voluntary subscriptions to non-provided schools in England and Wales during the educational year 1903–4; and what was the estimated total cost of the maintenance of those schools during that year, distinguishing the amount received from Government grants and from local taxation respectively.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The period as to which the hon. Member desires information was a transitional one, and, since the Act came into force at a different date in different areas, the Board have found it impossible to attempt to collect any complete or satisfactory information on the points raised in the Question. I am sorry, therefore, that I cannot give the hon. Member the figures he asks for.

Compulsory Transfer of Female Telegraphists from Bath.

MR. BARLOW (Somersetshire, Frome): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the three female telegraphists stationed at Bath, whom he has decided to transfer to other towns, entered the Bath Post Office as a result of open competitions for vacancies in that town only; and, if so, will he say whether compulsory transfer to other towns will be consistent with the conditions laid down by the Civil Service Commissioners; and whether he will reconsider his decision.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The transfer of these three telegraphists to another town is not inconsistent with the Civil Service Commissioners' announcement which states the conditions of their service as learners. I recognise the desirability of avoiding as far as possible the compulsory transfer of female telegraphists; but in the present case, owing to the conditions at Bath, it has been found necessary to diminish the staff of women employed there, and the transfer of some of their number is unavoidable.

Armagh Postal Staff.

MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that the indoor working staff at Armagh consists of seven qualified male officers and seven females and learners, and that the women and learners are exempt from money-order work, night duty, and the handling of the principal mail despatches; and, if so, whether, in view of the fact that the male staff has been further reduced temporarily by two officers withdrawn for work elsewhere, he will take steps to relieve the strain in consequence placed upon the remainder of the staff.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The indoor male staff actually employed at the Armagh Post Office has been reduced temporarily by one officer, who is in charge of a sub-post office, and not by two as the hon. Member appears to think, the second officer detatched for duty elsewhere being a female. I am satisfied that the male staff is not subjected to any undue strain in consequence of this temporary reduction.

Jurisdiction and Postal Service in Zanzibar.

MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the agreement which was under negotiation in regard to jurisdiction and postal service in Zanzibar, referred to in Clause 2 of the Declaration made on April 8th, 1904, between the United Kingdom and France, and in consequence of which the Government withdrew their protest against the Customs tariff established at Madagascar after the annexation of that island by France, has been completed; and, if so, what is the effect of such agreement.

(*Answered by Earl Percy.*) The agreement was concluded on 13th May last. In accordance with its provisions, the French post office at Zanzibar was closed on July 31st last, and the French Consular Court on 15th September.

Relief for Unemployed—Expenditure by Metropolitan Borough Councils.

MR. WHITMORE (Chelsea): To ask the President of the Local Government

Board whether he will grant a Return showing the amounts of the moneys which have been expended by the several metropolitan borough councils to provide relief for the unemployed during the winter 1904–5.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) I shall be happy to give a Return on the subject, and I will communicate with my hon. friend as to the form of the Motion for the Return.

Part Payment of Poor Rate.

MR. ROBSON (South Shields): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is willing to direct or recommend the overseers collecting the poor rate to receive part payment thereof in cases where the ratepayer refuses or omits to pay the whole rate.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) It rests with the overseers to decide whether they will or will not receive part payment of a poor rate in any particular case in which the ratepayer refuses or omits to pay the whole rate, and I am not prepared to interfere with their discretion in the matter.

Outstanding Exchequer and Treasury Bills.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the total of Exchequer and Treasury Bills outstanding at the present time; and also the total of the same class or classes of Bills outstanding on same date in March of each of the last three years.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) Statements relating to the Unfunded Debt which are issued at different dates cause great inconvenience and are apt to mislead; perhaps the hon. Member will kindly await the delivery of the Budget Statement. If the details I then give respecting the National Debt are insufficient I shall be happy to supplement them.

Birmingham School of Brewing—Competition of Laboratory with Private Analysts.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): To ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the School of Brewing in connection with the University of Birmingham has not fulfilled the expectations of its founders; that to provide against the closing of the school a professional laboratory, in competition with private analysts, is to be established for the purpose of analysing brewers' samples; that it is proposed to advertise the existence of the laboratory to the brewing trade generally; and that the local brewers, in consideration of having guaranteed a sum towards the maintenance of the school, are to have their analytical work done at the school laboratory free of cost to the extent of their respective guarantees; and whether he will take steps to prevent an institution supported partly out of public funds being thus used in competition with private professional analysts.

(*Answered by Mr. Austen Chamberlain.*) I am informed that the School of Brewing has completely fulfilled the expectations of its founders and is now in a most flourishing condition; the buildings, equipment, and annual working cost have all been provided by the Birmingham and Midland Counties Wholesale Brewers Association, so that no part of the funds of the University or the Government grant have been used in founding or carrying on the school. The scientific work done in the school is the subject of a complimentary reference from the gentlemen who carried out the last quinquennial inspection on behalf of the Treasury in 1901. I understand that it is now proposed to make additions to the school as a result of a visit made by a deputation from the Board of Management to the schools of Ghent, Berlin, Vienna, Munich, and Paris. I see no reason for any Treasury interference.

Purchase of Rifles by Indian Government.

COLONEL BOWLES (Middlesex, Enfield): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can state the price paid for rifles bought by the Indian Government this financial year, and the number of rifles thus purchased from the Home Government.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The price paid for magazine Lee-Enfield rifles in 1904–5 is £4 9s. 6d. per arm, including cost of inspection and other departmental expenses. This rate is, however, subject to adjustment when the actual cost of manufacture in the Royal Ordnance Factories has been ascertained. The number of rifles purchased was 92,574.

Appointment of Head Constable Bratton, of Athy, County Kildare.

Mr. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland at what age, and on what date, Head Constable Samuel Bratton, of Athy, county Kildare, first became a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) At the age of 21 years, and on September 6th, 1876.

O'Donel Estate, Newport, County Mayo.

Dr. AMBROSE (Mayo, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how many years the O'Donel Estate at Newport, county Mayo, has been in Chancery; how many applications for purchase have been made by the Congested Districts Board and the Estates Commissioners; who are the trustees of the estate; and what is the cause of the delay in the sale of the estate to the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The petition for sale of this estate was filed in 1893. The Commissioners have made no offer to purchase, but the Congested Districts Board have been in communication with the Land Judge in respect to the issue of a request under Section 77 of the Act of 1903. The matter will come before the Land Judge for consideration early next sittings.

Names and Previous Occupations of Irish Local Government Board Auditors.

Mr. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the names and previous occupations of the Local Government Board auditors for Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) This information will be found in a Return presented to Parliament in 1902 (Parliamentary Paper No. 146 of that session), supplemented by a similar Return which is now about to be laid upon the Table.

Discharge of Assistant Teacher of School Roll No. 15,008.

Mr. SHEEHAN (Cork County, Mid): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland under what circumstances, and for what special reason, was the senior and higher qualified assistant in national school, Roll No. 15,008, dismissed on the reduction of the average school attendance; has this teacher capably discharged her duty during her service of twenty-two years; and has anything been alleged by the inspectors of the Board of Education against her competency and qualifications, and is she now eligible for reinstatement in her former position, or, failing that, for a suitable pension.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners were obliged, under the rules, to withdraw salary from one of the two assistant teachers in this school in consequence of the insufficiency of the average attendance of pupils. The services of the assistant referred to in the Question were discontinued because the manager, in the exercise of his powers, elected to retain the other assistant. The service of the discharged assistant has been satisfactory, but it is stated that she suffers from a physical defect which militates against her usefulness. If, however, she should be selected as assistant by any school manager her case will be specially considered by the Commissioners. She is not eligible for a pension.

Conduct of Constables Gumbleton and Roche at Belmullet.

Mr. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the conduct of two constables of the Royal Irish Constabulary, Gumbleton and Roche, on the evening of January 28th, on the public road outside Belmullet, when they assaulted John

Munnelly, and compelled him to walk up and down the public road for fifty yards to enable them to judge whether he was under the influence of drink; and when Munnelly escaped from the police pursued him and subsequently took him to the police barracks at Belmullet; whether, seeing that the charge made against Munnelly at the Belmullet Petty Sessions of having been under the influence of drink on the occasion in question was dismissed, he will order an inquiry into the whole matter; and will he consider the advisability of having these constables removed to another station.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Mr. Munnelly was arrested by the constables named for drunkenness while in charge of a horse, and he was also charged with assaulting Constable Gumbleton when being arrested. A counter charge of assault was brought by Mr. Munnelly against Constable Gumbleton. The magistrates dismissed the complaints on both sides, but expressed the opinion that Mr. Munnelly, though not drunk, was under the influence of drink when arrested. The question of holding a disciplinary inquiry into the matter will not be decided pending the result of a civil action which, it is stated, Mr. Munnelly is about to institute.

Qualifications of Headmaster of Technical Instruction at Armagh.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state what were the certificates of qualification held by the present headmaster of technical instruction of Armagh previous to his appointment; and why is registration as a teacher under the Act of 1902 not considered necessary.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The headmaster held the following certificates. From the City and Guilds of London Institute: Full technological certificate in masonry, honours certificates in brickwork and plumbing, and first prize for practical leadwork. From the Board of Education, London: Advanced certificates in practical, plane, and solid geometry, building construction, and mathematics, and pass certificates in other subjects, including carpentry and joinery, practical mathematics, and applied mechanics. He also took first place at an examination for the post of assistant county surveyor in Ireland. I am not aware of any Act of 1902 applying to Ireland which bears on the subject.

Irish Agricultural Department—Transfer of a Catholic Clerk.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, since the Agricultural Department state that the Catholic clerk transferred from the veterinary to the fisheries branch did not suffer diminution of income, he will explain why this gentleman is now restricted to a class salary of £95, whereas he formerly received approximately £15 extra for acting as clerk in waiting.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Overtime earnings are not recognised as a regular part of official income, and no individual clerk has any vested right to be employed on overtime duty.

Field Guns for 4th West York Volunteer Artillery.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: To ask the Secretary of State for War why the modern 15-pounder field guns officially promised to the 4th West York Volunteer Artillery in 1901, in replacement of their museum guns, have not been delivered.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) It is regretted that no modern 15-pounder field guns are at present available for issue to the 4th West York Volunteer Artillery.

Mobilisation Manuals.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether mobilisation manuals, such as are in use in India, have yet been prepared for the Remount Department at Home.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) A remount manual has been prepared for use on mobilisation, containing instructions for officers employed on remount duties at home and abroad. A mobilisation scheme for the provision of horses for Home defence has also been prepared in each of the Home commands, which is kept up to date by the local staff.

Issue of Somaliland Medals.

MR. BUTCHER (York): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether there is any difficulty in the way of the immediate issue of a medal or a ribbon to the officers and men who were engaged in the recent Somaliland expeditions; and how soon such issue will be made.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Issue has been made already of all medals and clasps due on those medal rolls which have been forwarded to the War Office.

Barracks on Salisbury Plain—Further Expenditure.

MR. BROOKE ROBINSON (Dudley): To ask the Secretary of State for War what further sums of money it is likely will be spent in connection with the barracks on Salisbury Plain.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) It is estimated that a further sum of £737,000 will be spent on barracks on Salisbury Plain, partly on new works and partly on continuation services.

Reduction of Transvaal Constabulary Force—Maintenance of Order between Chinese and Kaffirs.

MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies (1) whether he has received any recommendations or suggestions from the Government of the Transvaal Colony that the cost of the constabulary force should and may with safety be reduced; (2) and whether he will consider the advisability of charging the cost of preserving order between Kaffirs and Chinese on the Rand to the companies owning the mines.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) (1) I have not recently received any recommendation as to the reduction of the South African Constabulary, the estimated cost of which for the current year is £1,110,300 as compared with a sum of £1,520,000 voted for the previous year. (2) The duty of preserving order within the compounds falls upon the mining companies, who employ their own Chinese police, for whom they pay. The ordinary town police force, or South African Constabulary, would only be called in under exceptional circumstances.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Navy Retirement Regulations.

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty why it is that His Majesty's naval officers are to be compulsorily retired on attaining the age of sixty, while officers in the Army are not compulsorily retired until the age of sixty-five.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The age for compulsory retirement in the Navy is not a general one, as the hon. Member seems to think. It varies according to the rank of the officers. For instance, admirals and vice-admirals are compulsorily retired at sixty-five, rear admirals at sixty, and captains at fifty-five. No change in these regulations is proposed.

MR. EUGENE WASON: Why are officers in the Navy retired at an earlier age than those in the Army?

MR. PRETYMAN: They are not.

South African War Jam Contracts—Government Explanation.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is now in receipt from the Colonial Governments of the names of the contractors who supplied 1,350,816 tins of jam for South Africa, each tin containing, as described in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, 12 ounces of jam instead of 1 lb.; and whether he can say how it was that shortage on so large a scale passed unnoticed when the goods first passed into the hands of the War Office authorities in South Africa.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT, Cheshire, Macclesfield): The War Department is now in possession of the names of the contractors who supplied jam to South Africa from Australia and Tasmania. But as the Question put might convey some reflection on the firms concerned, I should like to take this opportunity of making a statement on the facts of the case. None of the jam so supplied was in tins containing only twelve ounces. Part of the supply was in tins containing sixteen ounces, but the bulk was in nominals containing either fourteen ounces or twenty-eight ounces (one pound and two pound nominals). These nominals were either ordered as such or were in execution of orders for net weights. In the latter case an extra number of nominals was supplied equivalent to the deficiency. In all cases the country received the full quantity of jam paid for. When, however, the sale to which the Comptroller and Auditor-General refers took place in South Africa, the jam was sold by net weight and not by tins. Any apparent shortage is attributed to the fact that in the first place certain shrinkages had occurred through the heat and exposure to which the goods were, of necessity, subjected, and that, in the second place, the local military authorities had, under a misapprehension, treated the tins as containing full pounds of jam.

Western Australia—Ill-treatment of Aborigines.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the ill-treatment of the aborigines of Western Australia, as disclosed in the Report of the Royal Commission; and whether he proposes to take any steps to remedy this state of things.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington): I have just received the Report referred to, which is dated December 29th last. As I stated in reply to a Question by the hon. Member for East Cork on March 1st†, I understand that legislation will shortly be introduced in Western Australia dealing with the abuses disclosed in the Report. I have asked the Governor to inform me as soon as possible what action his Ministers propose to take in the matter.

Liquor Shops in Madras Presidency.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the questions recently addressed by the Board of Revenue in the Madras Presidency to the collectors in reference to the desirability of a reduction in the number of liquor shops in the towns and districts; whether he is aware that the collectors in most cases recommended reductions; whether the Board of Revenue declined to approve of these recommendations; and, if so, whether he will state the grounds upon which this decision was arrived at.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): I have not seen the reference nor the replies made by collectors. In reviewing the Excise Report for 1903–4 the Madras Board of Revenue deal with the subject, and explain that no great reductions in the number of shops were in their opinion possible, as the number had already been fixed with care and was not excessive.

Deaths from Plague and Smallpox in India.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will give the latest figures as to the number of deaths from plague and smallpox in India; whether he will state the number of deaths from plague since January 1st, 1905; and whether he is in a position to make a statement as to what special steps the Government of India are taking to reduce the rate of mortality and to prevent the spread of the disease.

Mr. BRODRICK: I am unable to give figures regarding deaths from smallpox, as they are not specially returned to me. For plague the latest received figures are for the month of February, namely, 126,041 deaths. The total number of deaths from plague since January 1st up to the end of February is 252,567. I have been in communication with the Viceroy as to whether more can be done to remedy the present deplorable loss of life. It has been decided to send out a scientific expedition to make a thorough investigation into the origin and causes of plague. The Royal Society and the Lister Institute have undertaken the direction of the inquiry, and arrangements for starting it at once have been made.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 10.

MR. SCHWANN (Manchester, N.) asked whether plague had not something to do with want of food owing to the enormous taxation placed upon the Indian people.

MR. BRODRICK: We have no evidence to that effect. It is almost impossible to trace any special cause for the increase in the number of deaths, but there is one satisfactory feature, which is that the number of infected areas has not increased.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Will the right hon. Gentleman try the effect of abolishing the salt tax?

MR. BRODRICK: The present Indian Budget has made a considerable reduction in the salt duty.

Italy and the Congo Free State.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any information to the effect that the Italian Government has announced that it will refuse permission to any Italian officer to take service under the Government of the Congo Free State; and, if so, if he can state what are the reasons given by the Italian Government for this action.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): No such information has been received by His Majesty's Government.

Salonica Disturbances.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): On behalf of the hon. Member for West Donegal, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has any official information to the effect that a band of thirty-one komitajis, under their leader Apostol, was recently exterminated in the Salonica district, and that the Austrian officer who visited the scene has reported that all the corpses were mutilated.

EARL PERCY: It appears that an encounter at the village of Smol between the Turkish troops and a band of about forty komitajis resulted in nine casualties to the former, and the extermination of the band, with the exception of the leader Apostol and four others who escaped. A Russian *gendarmerie* officer was a witness of the engagement, and His Majesty's Consul reports, as a satisfactory feature, the fact that discipline was enforced among the troops and that no damage was inflicted upon either the village or its inhabitants.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN: Were the bodies mutilated?

EARL PERCY: I am not aware.

Turkish Outrages at Kuklish.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN: On behalf of the hon. Member for West Donegal, I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any punitive action is to be taken as a result of the report of the Russian *gendarmerie* officer on the outrages committed by the Turkish troops at Kuklish on 16th February.

EARL PERCY: His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has made earnest representations to the Grand Vizier with a view to the punishment of any persons who may have been responsible for excesses, and a Commission has been appointed to institute a full inquiry, at which the Russian *gendarmerie* officer will be present.

Grants to English University Colleges.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if it is a statutory requirement, in the case of grants in aid of University colleges in England, that four times the amount is required from local subscriptions before anything is derived from the public funds; and, if so, what is the statute in which it is to be found.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): My right hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. There are no such statutory requirements.

MR. CLANCY: Are there any requirements, statutory or otherwise?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There has been such a requirement in regard to the grant in past times. But proposals in regard to the future allocation of the grant have been made by the Committee presided over by Mr. Horsley, and they are now under the consideration of the Government.

MR. CLANCY: Do I understand that it is proposed that there should be a grant of £100,000 a year to the University colleges mentioned in the Report; and is there any requirement, statutory or otherwise, in regard to this grant.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: There is a proposal by the Committee that the distribution should be governed by the amount of voluntary subscriptions obtained by these colleges. The Government have not yet come to a decision on the subject.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Will these amounts appear on the Estimates?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: They are in the Votes already.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: £100,000?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, £100,000 to English colleges; and it is less per head of the population than is devoted to any other division of the United Kingdom.

The Babbicombe Murderer.

MR. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the case of John Lee, who was convicted in February, 1885, for the Babbicombe murder and sentenced to death, which sentence was afterwards commuted to one of penal servitude for life; and whether, having regard to the fact that Lee has now served a period of twenty years imprisonment, he can see his way to advise that the clemency of the Crown be exercised in favour of this man's release.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): I have fully considered the facts of this case, but I regret that, having regard to the character of Lee's crime, and to the circumstances under which the capital sentence was respited, I cannot advise any exercise of the Royal prerogative in the convict's favour. I may say that, while persons under original sentence of penal servitude for life are as a general rule released on licence when they have served twenty years, this practice does not necessarily apply to cases where a death sentence for murder has been commuted to penal servitude for life; but each such case is considered independently on its merits.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Are there any periodical seasons for the revision and reconsideration of these cases?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Cases are brought up from time to time. This case was brought up. It was dealt with by Sir W. Harcourt, who regarded it as a very bad case indeed, and every one of my predecessors have concurred in the opinion of the original Secretary of State.

MR. FENWICK: Has there been any complaint against the character of Lee during the time he has been in gaol?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I do not know of anything in that alone to justify the decision, but we have had to consider the original circumstances, and the fact that this man has threatened the lives of persons now living.

Brighton Women Telegraphists and Compulsory Sunday Duty.

MR. SCHWANN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that women telegraphists and women telephonists at Brighton have been informed that they are to be compelled to perform Sunday duty, and that the persons affected have protested against this action on the part of the authorities; whether the Department will economise by employing women in the place of men; and whether, in view of the objection taken by the women to the imposition of Sunday duties, he will reconsider his decision.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): I am aware of the circumstances to which the hon. Member refers. After fully considering the protest I decided that the arrangement, which is an economical one, should be adopted, and I see no reason for altering my decision, especially as the duty will fall to by far the larger number of the officers concerned on only about three Sundays in the year.

Newspapers and Periodicals—Postage Rates.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that a registered newspaper may be sent through the post for one halfpenny, irrespective of its weight, and that in some cases registered newspapers weighing over two pounds are sent at that rate, while the postage on a periodical of the same weight which does not come within the definition of registered newspaper would be 5d.; and whether he proposes to take any steps to remedy this anomaly.

LORD STANLEY: The anomaly of which the hon. Member speaks has not been allowed to escape my attention or that of my predecessors. Unfortunately the Post Office Act of 1870, which laid down the privileged postage rate of one halfpenny for registered newspapers, did not fix any limit of weight, and advantage is taken of this omission by certain publications. The remedy would be to impose a limit; but that cannot be done without legislation. I should be glad to introduce a Bill giving power to fix such a limit if I had reason to think it would be treated as non-contentious.

Underfed School Children.

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the evidence on medical inspection of schools and feeding starving school children taken by the Royal Commission on Physical Training in Scotland, and by the Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration, will be laid before the new Committee of the Board of Education; whether fresh evidence will be taken by them, and of what nature; whether the further consideration of the Report of the Committee on Physical Deterioration will be suspended until the new Committee reports; and whether their Report will be made before the end of the session.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University): The evidence taken before the Royal Commission on Physical Training and the Departmental Committee on Physical Deterioration will be before the new Committee referred to. The terms of reference sufficiently indicate the character of the fresh evidence which that Committee is intended to take; and the consideration of the Report of the Committee on Physical Deterioration will only be suspended in respect of the matters included under that reference. I cannot say whether a Report will be made before the end of the session.

Poor Law Relief for Underfed Children.

SIR JOHN GORST: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Board of Education will address a circular to local education authorities advising them to instruct the managers and teachers of public elementary schools to refer the case of children attending their schools hungry and destitute, and unable from affliction to profit by the instruction provided, to the proper Poor Law authorities for relief.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Such a circular as is proposed could not properly be issued by the Board of Education without the concurrence of the Local Government Board. I will consider the matter.

SIR JOHN GORST: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that the Lambeth Board of Guardians have desired public elementary school teachers to adopt this course?

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: No, Sir, but I will inquire.

Underfed School Children on the Continent.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he will obtain, if possible, through the Foreign Office, and lay, a Report showing the methods adopted in the great Continental cities for dealing with hungry and ill-clad children, and the extent to which, if any, public moneys are spent upon the feeding and clothing needs of such children.

SIR WILLIAM ANSON: My noble friend the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs has promised to obtain what information he can for me on the points raised in the Question. I will consider whether the Board can supplement this information in any way, and also in what form the Report, when received, can best be issued.

Local Government Board and Underfed School Children—Milk Relief.

SIR JOHN GORST: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will address a circular to the local Poor Law authorities pointing out the duties of relieving officers in reference to giving medical and other relief to destitute children irrespective of the conduct and character of their parents; and whether the Local Government Board will suggest that, in case of relief in kind given to destitute children, part of such relief should be in the form of milk.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): My reply to the Question of my right hon. friend must be to the same effect as that which I gave on the 20th instant † to a somewhat similar Question put to me by the hon. Member for the Ilkeston Division. I am not aware of any reason for supposing that boards of guardians and their officers are not alive to the powers and duties which attach to them in relation to destitute children, where application is made to them for relief. With regard to the latter part of the Question, I think that boards of guardians may be trusted to use their discretion as to the giving of milk as outdoor relief to destitute children. The Local Government Board called the attention of their inspectors to the subject last year. It does not appear to me to be necessary to issue a circular as suggested.

SIR JOHN GORST: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Lambeth Board of Guardians sent an officer, at my request, to inquire into the case of certain destitute children, and that he did not relieve them at all?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am not sufficiently acquainted with the circumstances.

SIR JOHN GORST: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I shall be pleased to do so.

MR. HORNER (Lambeth, N.): Did the officer not find that there was no need for relief?

[No Answer was returned.]

Local Building By-laws.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Local Government Board if he is aware that in certain districts the local by-laws are framed so that not only is the building of new cottages arrested, but families are forced to reside in unhealthy dwellings; and, if so, will he state what action he will take in the matter.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am aware that complaints have been made in connection with this matter; and it is at present engaging my attention.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that in certain suburban districts the rules are much more stringent than in the County of London?

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I cannot say.

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† See page 427.

Island of Lewis—Visits of Medical Officers of Health.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, having regard to the fact that no medical inspector from the Local Government Board for Scotland has visited the Island of Lewis, and that, although the island contains a population of nearly 30,000, it has only been visited four times during the last five years by the medical officer of health for Ross and Cromarty, will he state the names of the districts visited by this officer.

*The LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton): The medical officer reports that he visited, in 1901, Barvas, Uig, Carloway, Garrynahine, Stornoway; in 1902, Lochs, Keose, Uig, Garrynahine; in 1903, Barvas, Carloway, Garrynahine; in 1904, Barvas, Stornoway; and this year he will probably visit Barvas, Garrynahine, Keose, and Stornoway during next month.

Ross-shire Public Schools and Fever Outbreaks.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state whether there have been any outbreaks of fever or other contagious diseases on the western mainland of Ross-shire during last year such as to necessitate the closing of public schools; if so, will he state the names of the schools closed and the periods for which they were respectively closed.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The following schools on the western mainland of Ross-shire were closed during the year 1904 by order of the sanitary authority, acting on the advice of the medical officer of health:—

School.	Period of Closure, 1904.	Nature of the Disease.
Applecross Public School -	March 18th to April 11th	Influenza.
Applecross, Torridon Public School.	April 12th to April 25th	Not stated.
Gairloch, Opinan Public School.	November 4th to November 28th.	Varicella.
Gairloch, Kinlochewe Public School.	June 1st to July 15th -	Scarlet Fever.

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, in view of the fact that twenty-five Norwegian trawlers and other trawlers of different nationalities habitually engage in trawling in the Moray Firth, will arrangements be made for a Fishery Board cruiser to more frequently patrol the Moray Firth with a view to prevent the destruction of the gear of local fishermen, and the prevention of trawling within the three-mile limit.

*Mr. SCOTT-DICKSON: The Fishery Board have no recent complaints of destruction of gear or undetected infraction of the three-mile limit. At the present time two cruisers continuously patrol the Moray Firth, and, if it were found necessary, another might be transferred from Stornoway.

Mercantile Marine—Training for Scotch Boys.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will afford to parents in the congested districts information, by lectures or other methods, relating to training of boys for the mercantile marine.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The Congested Districts Board are affording information on the subject referred to by every means in their power. If the hon. Member can suggest any particular method by which the end in view may be attained in his constituency, the Secretary for Scotland will be pleased to favourably consider it.

Jury-Packing at Cork Assizes.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland is he aware that, at the present Cork Spring Assizes, in connection with the trial of John Murphy on the charge of the murder of Kate M'Carthy, thirty-seven jurors were ordered to stand aside; can he say how many of these challenged jurors were Catholics; and was this course adopted with the sanction of the Irish Law Officers.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): The Crown solicitor reports that the number of jurors ordered to stand aside was thirty-four, not thirty-seven; that he did not know and did not make any inquiry as to the religion of the jurors set aside, nor was he in any way influenced by any consideration of the kind; that he acted in pursuance of the provisions of the Circular to Crown Solicitors dated the 12th February, 1894; and that, so far as he has been able to ascertain since the trial concluded and is able to form an opinion, ten of the twelve jurors who tried the case are Catholics. The reply to the last query is in the affirmative.

MR. FLYNN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that thirty-four of the jurors were Catholics? Is it intended to continue a system so offensive?

MR. ATKINSON: I am not aware of it, and I do not believe it.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I see the Solicitor-General for Ireland has returned from his jury-packing campaign in Cork. Has he nothing to say on this serious matter?

[No Answer was returned.]

Thomas Dowling's Cappawhite Estate, County Tipperary.

MR. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland is he aware that for some time past the estate of the late Thomas Dowling, in the parish of Cappawhite, and county Tipperary, which has been in the management of the Land Judge's Court for several years past, has recently been up for sale to the tenants; that a tenant on the estate named Daniel Moran, who holds a house and one rood of land in the village of Cappawhite and a farm of ten acres at some distance, signed purchase agreements at twenty years purchase on rental of house at £1 18s. that is £38 capital, and at twenty-one years purchase on rental of farm £9 annual, that is £189 capital sum, all arrears included; that afterwards the receiver processed Moran for a year's rent which should be paid; and that the Commissioner from the Land Commission Court, who came to inspect the holdings, approved of sale; and, if so, whether, seeing that on the 6th instant the solicitor having carriage of sale wrote saying Moran could not get the village holding, he will state the names of the receiver, the solicitor having carriage of sale, and the incumbrancer, and take steps so that the incumbrancer will not obtain the holdings in preference to the tenants in occupation.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): Mr. Moran signed agreements to purchase his agricultural and village holdings, respectively. The Land Judge accepted the proposal as to the agricultural holding, but refused the proposal as to the village holding. The agricultural holding cannot be vested in the purchaser until he furnishes the Land Commission with the necessary evidence of occupancy. The Land Judge is not prepared to supply the names of persons who are simply doing their duty as officers of the Court, or of the incumbrancers who are exercising their legal rights.

Gun Licences in County Galway—Case of Thomas Keary.

MR. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Mr. Thomas Keary, D.C., Kililand Mills, Kiltulla, county Galway, has purchased his farm, which contains forty acres, under the Act of 1903; and whether there is any objection to his getting a licence for a gun to protect his crops from damage, particularly during the seed time which is now at hand.

MR. WALTER LONG: Mr. Keary has not applied to the licensing officer for a gun licence. The question of issuing such a licence is one for determination by that officer, and I am unable to reply to the second inquiry.

Inniskea Island.

MR. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in the negotiations with Mr. E. C. Walsh for the purchase of Inniskea Island, the Congested Districts Board made any inquiry as to the willingness of that gentleman to sell to the Board the mainland portion of his property.

MR. WALTER LONG: Yes, Sir. The Board were informed by Mr. Walsh that he did not propose to sell the mainland portion of the property.

MR. O'KELLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the population of the Island of Inniskea, the number of holdings, the valuation, the number of acres of untenanted land (if any), the amount of the rental upon which the purchase price of the island was based, and the purchase price.

MR. WALTER LONG: The population is 289, the number of holdings 55, the valuation £86 5s., the number of acres of untenanted land 69; the rental upon which the purchase price was based £104 5s.; and the purchase price £1,000.

O'Donnell and Coyne Estates, Erris, County Mayo.

MR. O'KELLY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say whether any negotiations have taken place, or whether negotiations are pending, between the Congested Districts Board or the Estates Commissioners and the owners of the O'Donnell and Coyne Estates, in Erris, county Mayo, with a view to sale and purchase.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Congested Districts Board made an offer in the Land Judge's Court for the purchase of the O'Donnell Estate, but the offer was not accepted. With this exception the Answer to the Question is in the negative.

Buttevant Evicted Tenant.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the recent prosecution of an evicted tenant on the Fuge Estate, near Buttevant, named Thomas O'Grady, on a charge of alleged intimidation at Mallow Fair; and, seeing that the magistrate's decision was quashed by the superior Court in Dublin, will he explain why this man's business papers and notebook are still detained by the police, who took them from him at Mallow, and what compensation will be made to him for the detention of his business documents.

MR. WALTER LONG: The police have not detained any papers or books belonging to O'Grady, and did not take possession of any such articles.

MR. FLYNN: If my information should prove correct, will the right hon. Gentleman give instructions that the documents be returned?

MR. WALTER LONG: I am informed that the police have not detained them.

Untenanted Lands in County Roscommon—Irwin, Balf, and Goff Estates.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the dates on which the Irwin, Balf, and Goff Estates, in the county of Roscommon, on each of which there is a quantity of untenanted land, were offered to the Estates Commissioners; whether an offer has been made for them, or any of them; and, if not, will he explain the cause of the delay in acquiring these properties.

MR. WALTER LONG: In the Irwin Estate an originating request was lodged on October 17th last, but the inspector's report has not yet been received. In the

Balf Estate a request, under Section 7, was issued to the Land Judge on January 27th, 1904, and the inspector's report is now under consideration. In the Goff Estate an originating application was received on May 19th last, and it will be shortly dealt with by the Commissioners.

Mr. Young's Castlerea Estate.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the estate of Mr. Young, near Castlerea, in the county Roscommon, upon which there is a quantity of untenanted land. was offered by the owner for sale to the Estates Commissioners in May, 1904, and was inspected by an official of the Commissioners in June; and, if so, will he say whether any offer to purchase has yet been made; and, if not, will he state the cause of the delay, in view of the necessity of acquiring untenanted land in that district.

MR. WALTER LONG: A further inspection of this estate became necessary. and is now being made. The Commissioners will consider the inspector's report, when received, with a view to making an offer to purchase.

Lismore Guardians and Irish Manufactures.

MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Lismore Board of Guardians have by resolution requested the Local Government Board for Ireland, in view of the efforts now being made for the promotion of Irish industries and manufactures, to authorise them to entertain only tenders received from *bonâ fide* Irish manufacturing firms for medicines and medical and surgical appliances; and, if so, whether the Local Government Board will give the Lismore Guardians and any other public bodies desiring to follow the same principle this discretion in the case of all articles manufactured in Ireland by a number of firms sufficient to ensure adequate competition; and whether he will make inquiries of the President of the Local Government Board for England to ascertain whether this principle is adopted by a considerable number of boards of guardians in England.

MR. WALTER LONG: The duty of the board of guardians in the exercise of their public trust is to have due regard to economy and to obtain the best return possible for the money of the ratepayers whom they represent. The Local Government Board have no power to enlarge or curtail the responsibility of the guardians in this respect. The English Local Government Board have no knowledge that the method suggested in the Question is adopted in this country.

Ballydonlon Estate, County Galway.

MR. ROCHE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a portion of the Ballydonlon Estate, county Galway, purchased by the Estates Commissioners, is to be given to a Mr. Rothwell, petty sessions clerk of Ballinasloe, who was never a tenant on the estate and who does not live within miles of it, seeing that Mr. Rothwell is already in possession of more than one farm elsewhere.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Estates Commissioners are unable to identify this estate. If the hon. Member will furnish me with the name of the landlord I will have inquiries made.

Donegal Grand Jury.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that at the Donegal Assizes held recently not a single Catholic was on the Grand Jury; and whether, having regard to the proportion of the population of the county that is Catholic and to the number of Catholics in the county well qualified to act as grand jurors, he will in future take steps to secure that Catholics shall be represented on the Grand Jury.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have no means of ascertaining the religion of the Grand Jury. The summoning of the Grand Jury is the act of the High Sheriff under the restrictions contained in the Grand Jury Act. There is no allegation that the provisions of that statute have not been observed. The Executive, therefore, have no right to interfere.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Why not abolish this thing altogether?

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): How was it that the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor was enabled to ascertain the religion of the Grand Jurors in county Down?

[No Answer was returned.]

Agricultural Instruction in Donegal.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the deadlock in the administration of the agricultural schemes in Donegal owing to the Department's rule excluding the people of a county from appointments as instructors in their own county still continues; and, if so, whether he, as President of the Department, will advise the withdrawal of this rule.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Donegal County Committee have put the live stock schemes and the flax scheme into operation. They have also allocated funds for schemes of instruction in butter-making, poultry-keeping, and horticulture, but have not, so far as the Department are aware, yet taken steps to secure the services of suitable instructors in connection with these schemes, although many qualified Irish candidates are available. I am not prepared to advise the withdrawal of the rule referred to.

In reply to a further Question,

MR. WALTER LONG said he had no reason to believe there was any general dissatisfaction with the operation of the rule. The whole matter had been the subject of careful inquiry.

Elementary Science Teaching in Ireland.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that only 500 teachers of national schools in Ireland have passed through a full course of elementary science instruction, that less than 5,000 teachers have been trained by the organisers on the science course for the junior standards, and that more than 8,000 teachers have got no training whatsoever, will the Government explain why six of the science organisers have got notice that their services will not be required after March 31st instant.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have already, in reply to the hon. Member's Question of the 20th instant,† stated the reasons for terminating the employment of these organisers.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he has seen the last reports of the Head Organiser of Science Instruction and of the inspectors; and if the opinions of those experts, as to whether or not the services of the science organisers at present employed should be retained, will receive consideration.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have not seen the reports referred to, which will be published with the Board's next Annual Report. The Board, I have no doubt, give due consideration to the opinions of their officers.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any arrangement has been made for the training of those teachers, over 8,000 in number, in elementary science who have not yet had any opportunity of attending the organisers' classes.

MR. WALTER LONG: I replied to a Question to the same effect, put by the hon. Member for Mid Cork, on the 24th inst.‡

Goff Estate, County Roscommon.

MR. HAYDEN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the delay that has taken place in the sale and purchase of the Goff Estate, in the county of Roscommon; whether he is aware that an originating statement with duly signed agreements to purchase was lodged in this case so far back as the 31st May last and inspection made so far back as July; and that last autumn the Estates Commissioners were informed that a grass farm on the estate had been surrendered, and that it had been agreed to sell it for the purpose of division amongst the adjoining small holders, and that an inspection of this holding was delayed till about five weeks ago, since which nothing has been done, though repeated applications to close the sale of the estate, to which no answer of any kind has been given, have been made by those representing the owners; and, if so, will he say how much longer is this transaction to be kept open.

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† See page 461.

‡ See page 1081.

MR. WALTER LONG: There has been delay, but it was unavoidable. The Commissioners anticipate that they will shortly be able to make an offer in the case of this estate, and thus bring the matter to a conclusion.

Irish Board of Education Rules.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can define what is meant by a fundamental rule, to which reference is made in Rule 4 of the Rules and Regulations of the Board of National Education in Ireland; whether it is to be understood that the new rules were not submitted to the Lord-Lieutenant; and, if not, whether there was any special reason for not doing so; whether it is to be understood that no fundamental rule has been changed in the new rules just issued; whether he is aware of the important testimony to Irish as an educational factor in national schools contained in Mr. Dale's Report; and, if so, whether he will take steps to prevent the national language of Ireland being threatened with starvation by the Treasury.

MR. WALTER LONG: The expression "fundamental rule" is not defined in the Commissioners' Code of general regulations, but a definition of its meaning will be found in the letter addressed on the 9th February, 1864, by the Commissioners to Sir Robert Peel, then Chief Secretary for Ireland, and published in 1870 with the Report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Primary Education in Ireland. Proposals involving increased expenditure necessarily require Treasury sanction before they are embodied in rules, and no fundamental rule has been changed in the new Code. In his Report on primary education Mr. Dale expressed no opinion on the propriety of retaining instruction in extra subjects, of which Irish is one. He pointed out, indeed, that in England and Wales no grants for extra subjects are made at all, that subjects such as French, Latin, Mathematics, or even Welsh are taken as part of the ordinary school curriculum, and then only when the circumstances of the school make it desirable. In answer to the concluding inquiry, I must refer to my reply to the hon. Gentleman's previous Question of Monday last.†

Pole Carew and Butler Estate, County Cork.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that immediately subsequent to the purchase agreement on the agricultural portion of Pole Carew and Butler Estate, Banteer, county Cork, similar agreements were signed by the inhabitants of the village for the purchase of their houses; and that within the past week an official of the Estates Commission visited the place and informed the village occupiers that their purchase agreements are to be set aside and they must revert to the old terms of tenancy; and, if so, will he say if this inspector has acted with the knowledge and sanction of the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, what explanation can the Commissioners give for not adhering to the purchase system in this case.

MR. WALTER LONG: The inspector did not inform the village occupiers referred to that their purchase agreements were to be set aside, but, in the ordinary course, he asked each tenant whether he would be prepared to pay the purchase-money in cash if the Commissioners should decline to sanction the advances applied for. Until the inspector's full report on the estate has been received, the Commissioners will not give a decision in the matter.

Major Philipps' Estate, County Kilkenny.

MR. JOSEPH DEVLIN (Kilkenny, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Major Philipps, of Gale, Cashel, county Tipperary, has offered his estate at Foyle, county Kilkenny, for sale to the Estates Commissioners; if so, whether the Commissioners sent their inspector to visit the estate; and if any offer has been made to the owner for his interest.

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† See page 464.

Mr. WALTER LONG: No application in respect of this estate has been lodged with the Commissioners.

Queen's County Evicted Tenants.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will give the number of applications for reinstatement received by the Estates Commissioners from evicted tenants in Queen's County; and how many of these have been reinstated or provided with equivalent farms.

Mr. WALTER LONG: A hundred and sixty-eight applications have been received, and two evicted tenants have been reinstated.

Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Treasury has power to call for detailed accounts of the transactions of the Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees and to audit them; and, if so, whether he can state when the detailed accounts were last submitted and audited.

*The FINANCIAL SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Mr. Victor Cavendish, Derbyshire, W.): The Treasury does not possess the power referred to.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Has the Treasury no power to call for these accounts?

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: No, Sir.

Mr. MACVEAGH: And no power at all over the trustees?

[No Answer was returned.]

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that, by the terms of the trust, the Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees are required, as a precedent to suing for rates, to obtain from the Rolls Court a certified copy of the rate struck, he will say whether any such certified copy has been at any time issued by the Rolls Court; and, if so, when.

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The Board of Works are unaware whether any such certified copy has been issued.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Has the Treasury any power to compel the trustees to carry out the terms of their trust?

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I think the hon. Member is confusing the Board of Works with the Drainage Trustees?

Mr. MACVEAGH: Has the Board of Works any jurisdiction over the trustees?

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I think not.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state when the statutory obligations imposed upon the Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees with regard to the publication of their accounts, the lodging with certain clerks of the peace and with the Rolls Court of a copy of the rate struck, and the laying before this House every year of a detailed statement of their income and expenditure, were last discharged.

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: This Question refers to the legal obligations of the trustees, on which the Government have no authority to advise.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): When will the hon. Gentleman be able to answer the latter part of the Question?

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I hope I may be able to do so to-morrow.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the number of the Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees, and how many of them are land agents; and whether their accounts are subject to publicity or audit.

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The number of trustees is fifteen. I have no information as to how many of them are land agents.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I will put the latter part of the Question down to-morrow. But I would ask how this body is enabled to levy rates if nobody has control over it?

*Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The obligation is placed on them by statute.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): Who has the appointment of the trustees?

Mr. SPEAKER: Notice must be given of any further Questions.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that legal proceedings for the recovery of rates have been instituted by the Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees against numerous ratepayers; and whether, in view of the failure of the trustees to fulfil their statutory obligation to lodge with the clerks of the peace for five counties and with the Rolls Court a copy of the rate struck, he will require the trustees to fulfil these obligations before continuing the legal proceedings.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The Board of Works have no official information that any legal proceedings have been instituted. There are statements in the public Press to that effect.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I shall put the latter part of this Question down again to-morrow.

Portavogie Pier, County Down.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: On behalf of the hon. Member for East Down, I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, is he aware that the new pier at Portavogie, county Down, erected by the Board of Works in Ireland, has been destroyed by the recent storm; what steps he proposes to take to rectify the injury done; and will he consult and be guided by the advice of local opinion as to what should be done.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The Board of Works have no advice of any damage to Portavogie Pier, which is not in their charge but in that of the county authority.

Bann Drainage Works.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the total amount expended by the Board of Works on the drainage of the River Bann, the average amount annually levied by the drainage trustees, and the annual average receipts of the trustees.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The total expenditure on drainage was £158,423 and on navigation £104,374. The works carried out for this latter purpose were, to a considerable extent, also useful for drainage. The Board of Works have no information as to the last portion of the hon. Member's Question.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL: Seeing that this money is contributed by the ratepayers and that the expenditure of the Board of Works is useless, will the right hon. Gentleman take into consideration the whole question.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The whole question is now under my consideration.

Army Stores Wastages.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the issues involved for the public and the contractors, and the officials who are concerned, he will appoint a Select Committee of the House to make an immediate inquiry into the admitted and alleged deficiency and wastage of stores, etc., supplied to South Africa, and as to what has become of the money expended thereon.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): The proper machinery for dealing with these questions is, in accordance with constitutional usage, the Public Accounts Committee; and I think an additional reason for leaving these matters to that machinery arises from the fact that the Committee has been appointed, has sat, and actually begun the inquiry.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this Committee did not last year issue its Report until after the rising of Parliament?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no reason to think that any other Committee would be quicker in the presentation of its Report.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Has the Public Accounts Committee the same power as a Select Committee to procure papers and command the attendance of witnesses?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: If there is any difference in these powers, the difference is in favour of the Public Accounts Committee.

*Sir A. HAYTER (Walsall): May I say that the Public Accounts Committee met on Friday and proceeded to inquire into the matters referred to in the Question. General Sir William Butler, the Chairman of the War Office Committee, attended, and stated that he had six particular cases upon which he desired to lay a statement before the Committee, but that it would be impossible for him to do so before the end of April. It would be impossible, he said, to hurry the officers and others, and though the cases were different, most of the witnesses were the same. The Committee thought General Butler's reasons were unanswerable, and proceeded to inquire into one or two other and smaller cases. I hope the Prime Minister will understand that it will be impossible for the Public Accounts Committee to present any Report before Easter, but immediately General Butler presents his Report the Committee will proceed to deal with it, and issue an interim Report.

Discharges from Dockyards.

Mr. BENN (Devonport): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, as he is unable to include the case of the Government workers at the dockyards in the inquiry now being conducted by the Cabinet, he will, pending the result of such an extended inquiry, intervene, as he did in the case of Sparkbrook, Birmingham, to prevent wholesale and sudden discharges of men employed in the dockyards.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I think the hon. Member is not accurately representing the action I took in connection with Enfield and Sparkbrook. As regards the discharges from the dockyards, they are made in accordance with public necessities, and gradually, and endeavour is made to make any hardship that may ensue as even as possible over the dockyards concerned.

Army Clothing Vote.

Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is now in a position to propose any arrangement by which a brief discussion may take place on the Clothing items of Vote 7, replacing the former Clothing Vote, so as to prevent the loss of any opportunity of discussing them in the year 1905–6.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR was understood to reply that Vote A and Vote 1 would be taken next Monday, and probably it would be the best course to discuss the Clothing Vote on that. He believed it was usual—but probably the right hon. Baronet was a great authority and knew if it were so—for the Chairman to allow a general discussion on Vote A and Vote 1.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax): But owing to the operation of the guillotine only one afternoon is given for the discussion on Vote A.

Sir CHARLES DILKE: There is the Report stage.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): We have the promise of the First Lord that on Vote 1 we shall be allowed to discuss the whole Army policy.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not the authority in this matter, but I have done everything that can be done to facilitate discussion. I must, however, be facilitated by hon. Gentlemen opposite, who know the rules as well as I do.

Public Accounts Committee—Mr. Gibson Bowles' Withdrawal.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can give an undertaking that, in accordance with the recommendation, dated July 7th, 1903, of the Committee on National Expenditure, at least one day will this year be provided for the consideration by the House of Commons of the Reports of the Public Accounts Committee, and an opportunity be given of taking a decision upon the recommendations therein.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: There is really nothing for me to add to the general line of policy I have before suggested to the House, and which I am sure my hon. friend will deem to be reasonable. If the House generally desires it, I shall be happy to place at the disposal of the House one of the days allotted to Supply. If the House does not desire this, I should be very glad to find another opportunity, but in the present state of business I can give no pledge at all on the subject. The favourable wish I have expressed must not at some future time be taken as implying a willingness to sacrifice even greater interests to meet the wishes of my hon. friend.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I thank the right hon. Gentleman for his reply, which is purely hypothetical and founded on conjecture. I desire to ask the right hon. Gentleman if he will communicate with the Patronage Secretary with a view to the withdrawal of my name from the Committee, upon which it was placed without my consent.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sure there are methods by which my hon. friend can be relieved from the labour of serving on the Committee if he does not desire to serve upon it.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I do most earnestly desire to serve on the Committee, but the condition upon which I undertook to serve last year was broken, and, as I have no promise that the condition will be fulfilled this year, I desire to be excused from serving.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington): May I explain that I approached my hon. friend early in the session with regard to his serving on the Public Accounts Committee, and my hon. friend then said he was willing to serve if a special day were set apart for the discussion of the Report of the Committee. There was a strong desire in the House that the Public Accounts Committee should consider the Report with the least possible delay (the Report of the Auditor-General on the Wastage of Stores), and therefore it was necessary to appoint that Committee at once. As my hon. friend was out of town, I nominated him for the Committee, and wrote to him telling him that I had done so, because this Report was one in which he took great interest and one in regard to which his services would be eminently useful. I told my hon. friend that if the Prime Minister was unable to give a special day for the discussion of the Report it would be perfectly open to him to withdraw from the Committee. Indeed, I think he might have complained had I failed to nominate him. I think my hon. friend should adopt that course, and I believe it is the easiest, safest, and most courteous course that could be adopted.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES said he had not charged his right hon. friend with discourtesy towards himself. He was not willing to serve on the Committee, except on the condition that there should be a day for the discussion of the Report. He understood his right hon. friend's kindness in putting his name on the Committee, and his right hon. friend would appreciate his desire to withdraw from the Committee, as the condition had not been fulfilled.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners—Cost of Administration.

MR. STEVENSON (Suffolk, Eye): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he is aware that the average administrative expenses of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England, paid out of their common fund (including fees to architects and surveyors and such legal expenses as were defrayed from the said fund) during the financial years 1902, 1903, and 1904 were more than £50,000 per annum; and that the total administrative expenses of the Commissioners paid out of the above-mentioned fund, and including the above-mentioned expenses, for the years 1890 to 1904, both inclusive, amounted to nearly £750,000; and, if so, whether, having regard to the importance to the parochial clergy of an economical administration of the funds and properties of the Commissioners, he will direct an inquiry by the Treasury into the present administration thereof, or appoint a Commission or Committee for that purpose.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR was understood to say that the average administrative expenses of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners appeared to have been as stated in the Question. The total administrative expenses had increased, but he was informed that a large share of the administrative expenses of the Commissioners was attributable to sales and purchase of land and other transactions for the benefit of their estates. He saw no reason for an inquiry.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

It being now five minutes to three o'clock, four starred Questions addressed to the Secretary of State for War and one addressed to the Secretary of State for the Colonies remained unanswered.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): May I ask the First Lord of the Treasury an urgent Question relating to business? He will observe that a large number of Questions addressed to the Secretary of State for War have been shut out to-day, and this has happened on several occasions.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That is not an urgent Question; it is one that should be put on the Paper. It cannot be put now.

MR. RUNCIMAN said there was to be a debate to-morrow on the Statement of the Secretary of State for War, and it was found that unless they were put down earlier on the Paper, there would be no chance of receiving Answers to these important Questions.

*MR. SPEAKER: That debate seems to be an admirable opportunity for asking the questions. Moreover, the Answers will appear in print to-morrow.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham): Is it not possible for the House to select certain Questions which are to be answered.

*MR. SPEAKER: That is a question of practice which cannot be raised by asking, after five minutes to three, Questions which are not urgent.

MR. RUNCIMAN: May I ask, Sir, by whose directions the order of Questions is put down on the Paper?

*MR. SPEAKER: That, again, is not urgent.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Do I not understand, Sir, that it has been left by the House in your discretion, and that the order of Questions is arranged by the Clerks at the Table, subject to your approval? Was it not by your direction that Questions addressed to the Prime Minister were fixed to commence at No. 45? And were not the first Questions down to-day some addressed to the Lord-Advocate, which do not deal with very lively topics?

[No Answer was returned.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): Three Navy Votes are, I understand, down to-night, but they appear as non-effective Supply. I suppose they will not be proceeded with.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: They were put down because last Thursday the Supply business on the Paper was concluded some time before twelve o'clock, and we were subjected to considerable criticism because there was no other Supply down. We desire to avoid such criticism being levelled against us on any future occasion, and have therefore put these Votes down to-night.

NEW BILL.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (TAXATION AND PURCHASE OF LAND) BILL.

"To provide for the Taxation and Purchase of Land by Local Authorities," presented by Dr. Macnamara; supported by Mr. Bell, Mr. Broadhurst, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Harwood, Mr. Levy, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Toulmin, and Mr. George White; to be read a second time upon Thursday, 13th April, and to be printed. [Bill 125.]

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

[SECOND READING].

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) said that if ever a Consolidated Fund Bill needed special consideration it was the present one. This was the first Consolidated Fund Bill, to his knowledge, in the history of Parliament, the discussion on which would be cut short by the guillotine. There was some misconception as to the importance of this Bill, at any rate outside the House. It was supposed that the proceedings in Ways and Means, on which the Bill was founded, were mere formalities, and that the Second and Third Readings were occasions on which anything could be talked about. But the truth was that this Bill was one of the safeguards provided by the Constitution for securing the control of the House of Commons over the administration of public monies. To get money in Supply was a comparatively small thing, but it was only by this Bill that the money was actually obtained from the National Exchequer, and that showed the extreme jealousy which attached to the appropriation by the Government of the funds of the nation. Every Bill of this kind sanctioned issues from the fund which were exactly equivalent to the Votes already granted in Supply. The obvious intention of the constitutional practice in this regard was that the issues out of the fund should be used only for the purposes authorised by the Votes in Supply. No doubt there was a practice in the Army and Navy Departments by which they interchanged grants of money obtained in Supply; but, on the present occasion, grants out of the Consolidated Fund for one purpose were going to be used deliberately for other purposes, and the sanction of the House was, for the first time, being asked to this unusual proceeding. It was the business of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to defend this Bill, and he would like to draw the right hon. Gentleman's attention to the fact that the sum of over £28,000,000 asked for in this Bill was the aggregate of two Votes—the Vote for the Civil Services and Vote 1 for the Navy. There was no provision for the Army at all. Had it ever happened that on the first day of a new financial year the Army had been left in such a condition—without having obtained any grant from the Consolidated Fund. He wished to know whether, on April 1st in any previous year, the Army had been left without an *ad hoc* grant from the Consolidated Fund to meet Army expenses for the coming year. He believed it had never before happened. An excessive provision was now asked for for the Civil Services—twenty-three and a half weeks Supply instead of two or three months, the constitutional limit, in order that the money might be applied as it was last year to the purposes of the Army, and possibly of the Navy also. He protested against this practice of applying money, voted by Parliament for one purpose, to totally different purposes. The Vote was a bogus Vote, in so far as it was not wanted for the Civil Service at all, and it had been swollen to its present dimensions in order that the money might be used for Army purposes. It was a novel system, and he believed an unconstitutional one, and it certainly required an explanation from the Government. He had not moved a reduction on the Vote on Account because when such a Motion had been decided it would have precluded the challenging of items. He would do so, however, if it were in order, on the Committee stage of this Bill. It might be suggested that there was a precedent for this in what had been done last year, but he submitted that the precedent was worthless and that what was done was a gross abuse of practice. The truth was that the Scottish Education Bill was dropped last year simply because it would have taken up three days longer, so close had the Government got to the end of their tether—and have rendered an additional Appropriation Bill necessary.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) agreed that the Bill was one of extreme importance and that the Second Reading could not be considered a mere formality. Theoretically there was no amount fixed in the Bill at present, the figures being in italics, so that an Amendment to reduce the amount could hardly be shut out in Committee. Still, he understood the hon. Member for Dundee had not moved its rejection. He felt bound to support the Second Reading of the Bill, as otherwise the Government would not be able to comply with the law, although the Government were not entitled, by their conduct in regard to this Bill and to Supply this session, to any great indulgence. But undoubtedly it raised serious questions. The old practice of the House was to grant the Government a Vote on Account for two months at the outside, the amount of which was usually from £3,000,000 to £5,000,000. This involved a second Vote on Account, so that there was a Consolidated Fund Bill in March, and a second in May, and, finally, of course, there was the Appropriation Bill at the end of the session, which he suggested was very like the Highlander's knife; it had had a great many new blades and new handles, yet it was just the same knife—altered. That practice lasted till 1897, when the Government asked for a Vote on Account which would carry them on for some five months, and so got rid of the necessity for one of the Consolidated Fund Bills. This was a very serious matter. It had enormously diminished the control of Parliament over the Government, especially as, by the new rules, the Vote on Account could only be discussed for one day, and the humour of the thing was illustrated by the fact that the new rule was put forward by the Government as compensation to it for the enormous advantages given the House for the discussion of Supply. The result was that instead of having two unlimited discussions, the House would only have one discussion, and that would be limited to one day. The effect of that must be loss of control over expenditure.

Then, again, the Bill authorised the issue of £28,798,000 composed of Supplementary Estimates for 1904–5, a Vote on Account, and a sum for the Navy. That was very different from the relatively small sums which used to be voted as a Vote on Account. It brought a new principle and a new consideration into play; and the House ought not to pass such an enormous sum without attaching appropriation to it. The sums were ear-marked in the Vote; but they were not ear-marked in the issue. The House gave this £29,000,000 to the Government; they authorised the Treasury to borrow on it; but they did not ear-mark a single penny of it. It was the principal and most effectual work of the control exercised by Parliament that every penny of this money should be ear-marked for a particular purpose; and should not be applied to any other purpose. That was exceedingly important, however able the Ministers concerned might be. Formerly, when a Vote on Account was small, the necessity which existed now for appropriation did not arise, as any abuse that might occur could not be very great; but when it was proposed to vote such an enormous sum as that before the House, the House ought to seriously consider whether they ought not to attach to the Bill the condition of appropriation.

The Bill was far more than an issue Bill. Clauses 1 and 2 authorised the Treasury to issue £29,000,000; and Clause 3 authorised the Treasury to borrow from any person the total amount authorised. He quite recognised that there must be some Vote on Account; and also that the Treasury should have borrowing powers; but up to 1902 such powers were strictly limited to borrowing for one quarter only. The wording of the Act always was that the sum borrowed should be repaid in the next succeeding quarter. It was only in August 1902, that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, proposed for the first time an entirely new set of clauses, the effect of which was that the Treasury, or, in other words, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was given power to borrow for the whole of the year. The result was to increase the borrowing powers from a three months range of action to a conceivable nine months range of action. He thought the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not dispute the accuracy of that description. When these clauses were proposed he took considerable objection to them, although he did not feel it right to divide the House against them. The reason given for them was that the Treasury could borrow under more favourable circumstances. That, no doubt, was so, but the power of borrowing was a dangerous power to give at all. It really ought not to be extended by this House, but ought to be restricted; and this special class of borrowing was especially dangerous, because it added to the floating debt, the very worst form of debt, for which no security was given, but which was contracted on the I.O.U. of the Chancellor of the Exchequer or Treasury Bills. That had been one of the causes why the floating debt had attained such tremendous dimensions. In his opinion, the House ought to go back to the old system which existed before 1902. The reasons for going back were becoming stronger and stronger every day, and they were especially strong as regarded the present period. When the Bill went into Committee he would certainly make an attempt to alter the clauses back to their old form, and to restore the borrowing powers of the Treasury to what they were before 1902. The danger was not so much from over-taxation as from over-indebtedness, and this particular form of indebtedness was the most dangerous form of all. He had restricted himself entirely to the financial aspects of the Bill. It was an extremely important Bill and was worthy of the attention of the House.

MR. MCKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) said he desired to point out that under this Bill the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have no means of paying the Army. The Act on which he relied for that broad statement was the Public Accounts and Charges Act, 1891. Section 2 of that Act was very precise; and provided that every sum issued in pursuance of that Act should be applied to making good the amount so granted at the time of issue. Under the Vote on Account money was taken for the Navy and the Civil Services; but there was no Vote for the Army. The practice of the Treasury had been to treat the whole of the Army Votes as one Vote, and the whole of the Navy Votes as another Vote, and to transfer money voted for the Navy to expenditure on the Army. That was, however, based upon a particular section of the Appropriation Act; and without such an Act the power of the Treasury to treat the Army Votes as one Vote lapsed. There was no general authority to the Treasury to treat the Army Votes as one Vote; and at present the Treasury had no power to issue out of the Consolidated Fund any money for the Army at all. An issue could only be made by the Consolidated Fund Bill they were now asked to pass. But the issue by this Bill was governed by the Public Accounts and Charges Act, under which no issue could be made except in respect to Votes that had been granted. At the end of this year the Treasury would have had granted Vote 1 of the Navy and Vote 7 of the Army. They would therefore be in a position to pay the Navy but not to feed them, and to feed and forage the Army but not to pay them. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer would perhaps tell the House, if he proposed to pay the Army and feed the Navy, what had been the practice of the Treasury. Apparently the Government had not taken into account the full meaning of the Act of 1891 which, intentionally or not, limited and defined what the practice of the Treasury should be with regard to issues from the Exchequer, and with regard to appropriations-in-aid. He did not know whether he had made the point he had raised clear to the right hon. Gentleman, or whether the right hon. Gentleman was prepared to cite the statutory authority on which he relied for such issues as he would make to the Navy and Army until the

Appropriation Act was passed. He fully admitted that the practice of the Treasury was necessary, if the Navy and the Army were to be maintained between the months of March and August, but he submitted that for that purpose an Amendment to the Consolidated Fund Bill was required. As the Consolidated Fund Bill now stood, the right hon. Gentleman would be compelled to commit an illegal act. As he understood, an Amendment to the Consolidated Fund Bill would be out of order and could not be discussed, and that being so, in order to bring this question to an issue, he had no alternative but to move that this Bill be read a second time this day six months.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): I beg to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.) said anyone who had listened to the present discussion would agree with the hon. Member for Dundee that the financial procedure of the House was cumbrous, complicated, and excessively difficult of comprehension. It was hedged round with formalities and so called securities which might at one time have been necessary for preserving the control of the House over expenditure by the Government or the executive action of the Government, but which he thought took up a good deal of time—time which might be spent more usefully in other ways—without in any way adding to the authority or influence of Parliament. The procedure commenced in Committee of Supply when the Vote was proposed for the services of the year. Following upon that stage came the Report of that Vote to the whole House, when the assent of the House to the Resolution of the Committee had to be obtained. It might be thought that that would be sufficient for the purpose, but then came a further stage, itself divided into several stages, when the Government had to ask power to issue the money which the House had already voted. That was the stage when the Consolidated Fund Bill was dealt with. The Appropriation Bill was a Bill not merely to authorise the payment of money but to see that the money authorised was appropriated to specific purposes. The House was now engaged upon the Second Reading of the Consolidated Fund Bill, and it was true that in that Bill to-day was included the total sum of money actually voted by the House for Supply services, and it was provided that the money authorised under the Consolidated Fund Bill should be available for the purposes which had been approved by the House previous to the introduction of the Consolidated Fund Bill. It might be true that while the total in a Bill like the present was arrived at by adding together the sums voted on account of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and Supplementary Estimates of expenditure, there would be power under the Act to issue money to the extent of the total sum, not limited to the exact proportion of the Votes already passed. That might or might not be a desirable thing, but he failed to see how the business of the country could be carried on without a revolutionary change in Parliamentary procedure unless such authority was given. It was quite obvious that the House could not pass the whole of the Supply for a year until the commencement of that year. If the same power was not given in the future as was given in the Consolidated Bills in the past it would be impossible for the business of the country to be carried on.

It was complained that in former years they used to have not a single Consolidated Fund Bill but two or three in the course of a session, before coming to the final Appropriation Bill. He might at once say he was afraid there would have to be a second Consolidated Fund Bill this year, though he greatly regretted the necessity. It was not the intention of the Government that such a necessity should arise when the present rules of procedure were passed. Under the old arrangement

Votes A and 1 of the Army and Navy were taken together with a small Vote on Account at the expiration of the financial year, and there was no further opportunity of discussing Supply until quite the end of the session when the discussion was often perfunctory. By the new rules a weekly opportunity had been given to the House to discuss those Votes of Supply hon. Gentlemen desired to criticise. The First Lord of the Treasury at that time announced that part of his intention in framing the new rules was that a single Vote on Account should be taken to cover the whole of the session, from which it followed that there would be only one Consolidated Fund Bill before the final Appropriation Act.

The hon. Member had asked if there was any precedent for the position in which they were with regard to the Army Votes to-day. He had not looked up the precedents, and he did not think there was, but the present position was in part due to the endeavour which had been made this year to meet the recommendations of the Public Accounts Committee. Last year the Public Accounts Committee objected to the large use made of the powers of the Treasury to give provisional sanction to the transfer of available Supply from particular Army Votes to other Army Votes and from particular Navy Votes to other Navy Votes. The form in which the Army Supplementary Estimates were brought in this year was one desired by the Public Accounts Committee in order that at the earliest possible moment the sanction of the House should be asked for the *événements* which had taken place, instead of that sanction being asked by Resolutions immediately preceding the introduction of the Appropriation Bill at the end of the session. He thought the experiment had not been wholly satisfactory. The hon. Member for Exeter recently complained of the difficulty of understanding the accounts, or even of apprehending the purposes for which the money the House was asked to vote was required. He (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) had been anxious that the attention of the House should be called by the Supplementary Army Estimates to the particular subject which necessitated their presentation. As long ago as his Budget statement of last year he announced that a Supplementary Estimate would be required for Somaliland. He thought that the practical and business-like way of treating the £550,000 required would have been to put down a Vote for that amount for "operations in Somaliland." Every Member of the House would then have known in advance for what the money was required, and what discussion would be germane to the Vote. He was told, however, that if he insisted on having the Vote presented in that form, he would be met by the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee, and that before the Supplementary Estimate was discussed at all, at least a day would be spent in discussing the form in which it was presented. The Estimate was therefore introduced in the form which it was understood the Public Accounts Committee approved, but he did not think the result had been satisfactory. The discussion wandered over a very wide area, covering almost every Army Vote; it was an anticipation of the natural and proper discussion on the Army Votes for next year, and in consequence of the introduction of this extraneous matter it was very late in the day before the discussion of Somaliland affairs was reached at all. It was, in fact, the abnormal length of that discussion which had brought the House to the position on which the hon. Member for Dundee had commented. More days would have been given to the discussion of Supply and finance before Easter in the present session than had been allotted in any but four of the last fourteen years. The Supplementary Estimates were smaller this year than they had been for many years past, and yet the time which had proved ample for the discussion of bigger Estimates in other years had been insufficient this year. The Government had therefore been driven to adopt the course explained by the Leader of the House, which he believed was unprecedented—certainly he was not prepared to cite a precedent across the floor of the House.

The hon. Member for North Monmouthshire had asked by what authority he would pay the Army out of the Victualling Vote. He would do so by exactly the same authority as his predecessors had done for many years past. That had been the accepted financial practice of the country; it had received each year the subsequent ratification of Parliament by the Appropriation Act, and it had always been sanctioned by the Public Accounts Committee; and as far as he knew, there had never been any question as to its propriety, or, indeed, its absolute necessity; and the hon. Gentleman himself, though he said an interesting point could be raised as a constitutional technicality, did not suggest that the practice could be dispensed with.

MR. McKENNA suggested that the form of the Consolidated Fund Bill might be so altered as to cover the illegality.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN deprecated any alteration in these annual Bills unless a clear necessity were shown. Such alterations were made a subject of comment, generally of criticism, and were almost always instrumental in occupying time which might be more usefully devoted to other matters. He therefore would not propose any innovation in constitutional practice unless he was convinced of its clear and urgent necessity.

He came now to the point raised by the hon. Member for King's Lynn with reference to the change made in the Consolidated Fund Bill in 1902, at the instigation of his right hon. friend the Member for West Bristol. The hon. Member was under a complete misapprehension in speaking of that alteration as having had the effect of adding to the floating debt of the country. It did not authorise the Chancellor of the Exchequer to borrow a single pound more than he could otherwise have done. The contention of the hon. Member was that that alteration authorised the Chancellor of the Exchequer to borrow up to the close of the financial year instead of borrowing merely for one quarter and repaying the money so borrowed the next, and that in that way it greatly reduced the control of the House over the Government of the day. Under the old system what the Government borrowed in the first quarter of the year they had to repay in the second. But they did it by borrowing again; so that it simply meant that instead of borrowing at once for nine months, they borrowed for three, and then for three months again, and then for another three. As the House was doubtless aware, the necessity for these temporary borrowings arose from the fact that whilst expenditure was heavy in the early part of the year the revenue collection was not equal to the outgoings, and therefore the ingathering of the revenue had to be anticipated by borrowing. This necessity would always exist as long as the income-tax, which was collected mainly in the last quarter of the year, remained at its present high figure, and formed so important a part of the financial system of the country. The course to which the hon. Member for King's Lynn took exception did not increase the borrowing power of the Government or relieve them of the control of the House of Commons. What it did was to enable the Chancellor of the Exchequer to borrow in more than one way and on more than one security. Formerly he could borrow only on his personal I.O.U. That being a security he could not offer in the market, he was obliged to have recourse to the Bank of England to meet the whole of his needs, and when those needs were as great as they had been of recent years, this method of financing the Exchequer in anticipation of revenue was not only inconvenient but uneconomical. By the powers taken in 1902 the Chancellor of the Exchequer was given greater latitude as to the security on which and the way in which he could borrow, and by so doing the disturbance and inconvenience to the money market were lessened, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer was enabled to raise the money he required on more economical terms. He could not be a party to the reversal of the decision then taken, and he hoped that on further consideration, the House being assured that no additional borrowing powers were given to the Government by its renewal, the hon. Member would not persist in his endeavour to eliminate this clause from the Bill.

MR. McKENNA expressed his satisfaction with the reply of the right hon. Gentleman, and asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) desired to call attention to the necessity for more drastic action than had yet been taken in the way of calling upon the local education authorities to make adequate provision for the proper feeding of children in elementary schools. At the present time all that was being done in this direction was being done by voluntary effort. It had been shown that voluntary effort was no longer adequate to meet the necessities of the case. He hoped that it would not be urged that nothing could be done without fresh legislation. He was perfectly alive to the fact that it was not competent for him to discuss legislation upon the Bill now before the House, but he held that the Education Department could do a great deal more even with the powers they now possessed. He did not think that the Education Department single and alone could do much, but in conjunction and co-operation with other Departments of State, he thought a very great deal could be done to meeting the most necessitous aspects of the case. The demand for the proper feeding of school children was based upon two main grounds: (1) the plea of humanity, and (2) economy. With regard to the humanitarian argument, he anticipated that there would not be any difference of opinion in any section of the House. They would all agree that it was criminal, let the cause be what it might, that children should be allowed to go improperly fed and uncared for. On the ground of economy, it stood to reason that, having provided a great system of educational machinery, they should be prepared to make the most of it by not merely equipping the schools so as to enable them to give the best education, but by properly feeding the children so as to enable them to receive the education provided for them. That was the respect in which this question was so important.

It might be alleged that to undertake the feeding of school children was to interfere with parental responsibily. That argument was commonly used in this and various other connections, but they never heard this argument except when it was a case of an attempt to save the rates. When a poor widow was called upon to go out to work for her family to prevent a home being broken up they heard nothing of parental responsibility. Upon the proper feeding of children depended the future stamina and *morale* of the race. The money spent upon the feeding of children would return to the nation tenfold in days to come, whereas if they starved the childen now they would have incompetent men in the future. As a matter of economy, he submitted that the nation would be well advised if it insisted that the children attending our elementary schools should be properly fed as a primary condition to endeavouring to educate them efficiently. This view was supported by the Report of the Royal Commission upon Physical Training which applied to Scotland, and by the Inter-Departmental Committee which applied to the whole kingdom.

With the sanction of the House he would again call attention to some of the recommendations of those two bodies bearing upon the responsibility of the Education Department and the Government authorities. The Royal Commission upon Physical Training in Scotland reported that a large number of important witnesses, including members of the medical profession, inspectors of schools, representatives of school board teachers and others were questioned on the subject with regard to the effects of malnutrition upon youths, and they were unanimously of opinion that it was most desirable that increased attention should be paid to the feeding of children attending State-aided schools. This Commission entirely endorsed that view. He desired to ask the Minister for Education whether his Department had taken any action in the way of calling the attention of the local education authorities to this aspect of the question. If not, he wished to know whether it was the intention of the Education Department to take any action in connection with this recommendation. In regard to the Inter-Departmental Committee upon Physical

Deterioration, on July 20th last year they recommended—

> "That the evils arising from underfeeding of children are so widespread, and in certain localities so pressing, that some authoritative intervention is called for at the earliest possible moment to secure that the education of the children who are obliged to attend school shall not be hampered and retarded by the physical condition thereby engendered."

That was eight months ago, and he wished to know if anything had been done to give effect to that recommendation. If not, what use was it appointing Royal Commissions and Inter-Departmental Committees, thus spending the money of the country and wasting the valuable time of the Commissioners? The Minister for Education had informed them that he had appointed a second Inter-Departmental Committee with the object apparently of finding out what the first Committee recommended. This second Committee had been appointed to find out whether relief for poor children could be better organised without any charge upon the public funds, both generally, and especially in regard to children who, from malnutrition, were below the normal standard. Why was this limitation imposed? Why were the Committee not allowed to make a full inquiry into the entire question whether it involved a charge upon the rates or otherwise? Upon a question which had excited such widespread interest, and which was in no sense a Party question but a subject upon which depended not merely the physique of the people but the defensive power of the nation, why should the Board of Education impose such a limitation which would either stultify the Report of that Committee or involve the appointment of another Committee before a final decision could be arrived at. There was a further recommendation in the Report of the Inter-Departmental Committee which stated that—

> "A working adjustment between the privileges of charity and the obligations of the community might be reached."

That obviously referred to some working agreement that the school authorities should make provision for cooking the meals, and providing a room in which the meals could be served, on the condition and understanding that the cost of the meals came from public charities. Had the Minister for Education done anything to carry into effect that recommendation? All through the winter they had had these funds at work in every big centre of population in England and Scotland. They had had the teachers and the staffs of the schools voluntarily doing their best to assist in feeding the children. Everybody appeared to have been anxious to take a share of the work except the Education Department, which ought to have shown most anxiety of all. He asked the hon. Baronet whether his Department had circularised the educational authorities showing how their own efforts could be co-ordinated with those of private charity, so as to make the most of the means at their disposal until some final arrangement had been reached. In connection with the higher-grade schools the local authorities now built dining-rooms and made provision for meals being supplied at the cost of the scholars. If that could be done in the higher class schools, why did not the Minister of Education instruct the local authorities that it was equally competent in elementary schools. That was a matter respecting which they had a right to complain. Paragraph 362 of the Report said—

> "In some districts it still might be the case that such an arrangement would prove inadequate. The extent of the concentration of the poverty might be too great for the resources of local charity, and in these, subject to the consent of the Board of Education, it might be expedient to permit the application of municipal aid on a larger scale."

Did the powers possessed by municipal authorities enable them to provide money to meet the case of necessitous children? The city of Bradford corporation had endeavoured to meet the demand for meals by voting a surplus of money, in the form of salary to the Lord Mayor, on the understanding that the sum so voted was to be handed over to the education authorities and applied to the feeding of children. That was one way in which, without fresh Parlimentary powers, money might be raised. There was another. In addition to the relieving of destitute children by the boards of guardians, he submitted that the President of the Local Government Board, in conjunction with the Minister of Education, was empowered to make grants of money to school authorities or to private committees to enable them to feed starving children. The Local Government Board might authorise the granting of a sum of money by any board of guardians to any institution which promised by its operations to save the rates. He submitted that since children whose parents were destitute had a right to come upon the rates for support, it was quite within the scope of the powers of the Local Government Board to authorise grants in the way he had indicated. He hoped the Board of Education could take the initiative in this matter and instruct the local education authorities as to their powers, duties, or responsibilities.

It was commonly supposed, now that the unemployed difficulty was subsiding, the winter was passing, and the spring was upon us, that the need for making provision for hungry children was passing away. There could not be a greater fallacy than an assumption of that kind. The poor and, in a special degree, hungry children were with us all the year round, and one of the strong objections to leaving the matter to be dealt with by private charity was that it was only on the occurrence of a crisis that private charity operated, and that while the need was continuous relief was spasmodic and very uncertain. In Manchester he found that the local education authority provided during the winter months 109,000 free meals to children at a cost of £1,010. At the beginning of March the provision of free meals had to stop, not because the need for them had ceased but because the fund had dried up, and during all the months that were to come until the beginning of next winter the harrowing spectacle would be seen in Manchester of children going to school day by day, not, perhaps, starving, but always improperly fed, and the teachers were set the task of educating the mind while the physical condition of the child was such as to render education an absolute impossibility. Surely it was time, when we had commenced to build up an educational system in some manner worthy of the nation, that we should try to be logical for once and equip the schools fully by equipping the child efficiently. In West Hartlepool 1,200 children received one meal each day all through the winter from charitable funds. The important point to which he wished to direct attention was that, while these children were still upon the roll of necessitous cases, the charitable fund was drying up. These poor little mites were only having their free breakfast three times a week now instead of six times. This happened because the matter, though one of public interest, was left to charity which dried up, and charity was very apt to dry up when sentiment was taken out of the appeal. In Leith the number of children who had to be provided with meals was, on an average, 600 a day all the year round, and in order to meet the cost between £800 and £900 was required. The School Board of Leith had issued a circular appealing for funds, and up to the present the amount received was £190. These cases could be multiplied indefinitely. It was not only London that was clamouring for relief in this matter; the demand was coming from all parts of the country.

While all classes should be interested in the question, the working classes were interested in a special degree. They heard about inefficients and people who were unemployable, but if children were starved how could the youth of the country grow up physically strong and able to maintain their place in the industrial struggle? He hoped the Education Department would say boldly and straight out, "Here is a need that exists, no matter how it has arisen, and it is the business of the State to take upon itself the responsibility of having that need adequately met." If the parents drank the money which ought to be spent in feeding the children, punish the parent, but do not visit the sins of the parent on the child. We could not afford to do that without serious risk. This was not a matter for private charity. The more sensitive and highly strung it was, and the more mental capacity it had, the more did a child shrink from the brand placed upon it when called upon to eat the bread of pauperism or charity, while others were enjoying that which was its by right. It was not only that they broke the child physically in that way, but they broke its spirit and destroyed its budding manhood. He hoped they would have from the Minister of Education some declaration of policy in regard to this great question. There was testimony accumulating on every hand that it could not be delayed or shelved with impunity. With regard to the objection that the State was taking the place of the parents, he would remind hon. Members that the State, by its action, had broken down the sense of parental responsibility in the great textile districts. That being so, the sense of parental responsibility was bound to disappear under modern conditions, and there was need for the State to step in and supply the place the parent formerly occupied. In order that the feeling of the House might be tested on the subject, he moved that the Bill be read that day six months.

DR. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said that in seconding the Motion he wished to add a few words to what he had uttered on this subject on Wednesday last. He had watched the physical condition of the working classes for the last thirty years with care, and in detail pretty well every day, both as a teacher and as a member of a school board, and he had arrived at two very definite conclusions in regard to the matter. The first of these was that 80 per cent. of the people were never better off than they were to-day as regarded housing, clothing, and feeding. The effects of the system during these thirty years in the common schools had been altogether elevating, not only in regard to the children themselves, but in respect to parental obligation towards those children. He was perfectly easy in his mind as to the physical condition of four-fifths of the working classes. But he felt, indeed he might go the length of saying that he knew, that of the other fifth, in respect of their housing, clothing, and feeding, their condition was entirely hopeless, and never more hopeless than at the present time. That fifth were the children of the great slums not only in England, but in Ireland—the Physical Deterioration Committee had some very striking evidence from Ireland—and also in Scotland. These children of the slums represented a million of the children in the British Isles, and we had to concentrate our attention upon that particular million. It was no exaggeration to say that he positively shuddered when he contemplated the fact that here we had a million of to-morrow's citizens upon whose puny, rickety shoulders the burden of the heritage of this country inevitably rested. They were always suffering from malnutrition. In a great many cases the mothers, even if they had the right sort of material to feed these children with, would not make use of it to the best advantage, particularly in this country of England. He remembered a medical man complained to such a mother when she was giving a small child in arms some gin. She turned round upon him very sharply and said, "You dare to say to me that I don't know how to bring up children. Why, I have buried six." Apart from the fact that there was always malnutrition in the winter time, when the building and allied trades were out of work, children came to school day after day absolutely hungry. He had seen in East Bristol, when the frost first began to be keen, the children faint and even vomit not because they had too much in their stomachs, but because their stomachs were absolutely empty. That was quite a common experience.

He would now turn to another class. The significance of the figures in the Report of the General Recruiting Officer for 1902 was very striking. In St. George's Barracks in this city in 1902, 12,951 young fellows offered themselves for enlistment and were accepted; but 4,841 or 37·4 per cent. were afterwards rejected as being unfit under a comparatively low standard. At the Hounslow Barracks 1,625 submitted themselves for enlistment in the Army and 642 were rejected or 39·5 per cent. At Newcastle-on-Tyne recruiting depot 2,012 offered themselves and 766 were rejected, or 38·1 per cent. Manchester was an extremely significant case; 4,470 young fellows offered themselves and 2,190 were rejected, or 49 per cent.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): What was the ground of rejection?

DR. MACNAMARA said that the grounds of rejection were set forth in great detail in the Appendix to the

Physical Deterioration Report—narrowness of chest, lightness of physique, etc.

MAJOR EVANS GORDON: Does "under age" come within the causes of rejection?

DR. MACNAMARA said he really could not say; but in Manchester 4,470 recruits came under inspection and 2,190, or 49 per cent., were rejected. General Sir Ian Hamilton, writing to Mr. Horsfall, although he paid a handsome tribute to the courage and endurance of the Manchester Regiment in the South African War, said he could not but feel what a shame it was that the men were so undersized. As his hon. friend would say: their spirit was strong, but their flesh was weak. At the Liverpool recruiting depot 2,164 came under inspection for the Army, and of these there were 839 rejections or 38·8 per cent. Going over to Ireland, at Belfast there were 1,443 inspections for enlistment and 542 rejections or 37·6 per cent. Without any further figures in testimony, here was a human document far more striking than the details in the Appendix to the Report of the Physical Deterioration Committee. It was a letter placed in his hands a few hours ago, written on rough paper by a mother to a schoolmaster—

> "Please to excuse Fred if he is not able to do his work as he has had nothing to eat since yesterday dinner time."

He could, as a teacher, say that he had often had a document of that kind put into his hands in regard to children; and that teachers of London all recognised that that was a familiar condition of the children.

It was not a question in England only. In the Report of the Royal Commission on Physical Training in Scotland in 1903 there was very remarkable testimony as to physical deterioration in that country, where, if anything, the people were individualistic. The Commission was appointed to consider schemes of physical training, and they might very well have made no reference to feeding, but simply said that such and such schemes were good or bad. However, directly the Commissioners came to the consideration of the schemes for physical training of children, the further question of feeding them at once presented itself. He himself thought that the Commissioners went outside their reference, but they unanimously recommended that something should be done to deal with this question of feeding the children, although they were most anxious that there should be nothing in the way of economic abuse. So anxious indeed were they, that they specially reserved the use of public money for that purpose, because of the exiguous terms of the reference. It was very remarkable that a Scotch Royal Commissioner should have said—

> "We can do nothing with schemes of physical training unless we first deal with the feeding of children."

He knew that there would probably be quoted against him the opinion of Mr. Bridgeman, who said that there were now no hungry children in London. He understood that Mr. Bridgeman had so far modified that statement by saying that there were quite sufficient agencies to deal with these hungry children. If any hon. Gentleman who was inclined to quote Mr. Bridgeman would turn to page 71 of the last Report of the London School Board he would find that that Board, through a special committee appointed to consider this question, deliberately came to the conclusion that they could not safely leave the feeding of the children to charity, and that the local authorities should be allowed to deal with this matter by means of funds placed at their disposal—taking security against anything in the nature of economic abuse. Let him read the testimony of the chairman of the Edinburgh School Board, Miss Flora Stevenson. She said—

> "Another great difficulty we have in the poorer schools is the physical condition of the children. They are half-starved and ill-clad."

Similar testimony had been obtained from a Catholic priest, who gave evidence as to the condition of the children in the poorer parts of the great cities in Ireland. He need not labour the point further.

He had listened with some impatience, during the discussions on the great Education Act of 1902, to the religious squabbles that went on. He insisted that the practical education difficulty was not religious. The real difficulty was the problem of how we could adequately deal with the physical needs of the children. Next year, or the year after, when a new Parliament, whatever its constitution might be, came to deal with these matters, there was no doubt there would be discussions as to whether there should be four trustee managers and two public managers on a school committee, or four public and two private managers. That was very important, no doubt. Or as to whether there should be inside or outside facilities for the children to receive denominational education. That, too, was no doubt important. But what was of far more importance was the physical conditions under which the children came to school. He must say that he would rather have a well set-up well clad, well fed, sturdy little Churchman than a puny, weak-kneed, narrow-chested, rickety little Nonconformist.

Now what should we do? He knew there were great difficulties in the way. He also knew that the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education was an exceedingly kind man; but, as an official, the hon. Gentleman seemed to take rather a hard, hide-bound, doctrinaire view of the functions of the State in regard to education. We had two things to do for these poor slum children. We had to take a complete record of their physical condition and place them under continuous medical supervision. In Brussels every child attending a primary school was medically examined, careful measurements taken, and the state of the eyes, teeth, and other particulars were recorded. Sixteen doctors were in constant touch with the schools, and every school had to be visited every ten days and the condition of the children recorded. In London three or four doctors were engaged in this work; but if the level of Brussels was to be reached London would have to have 100 doctors to look after the condition of the children in the elementary schools. They would have to keep the children under close medical supervision. The prime question, however, was the question of food; and, as regarded that, the sooner it was dealt with the better. He would suggest the adoption of the Parisian canteen scholar plan, which was partly supported by the parents, partly by voluntary contributions, and partly by the State. The schools in the poorer parts were linked together and a central dining hall was provided for each group. Any parent could get from the local Board of Works a book of coupons. If he could pay he did, if he could not, the coupons were given to him gratuitously; and there was no difference in their form, whether they were paid for or not. The teachers were also provided with coupons; and the children, instead of hanging about picking up garbage under costers' carts, as in London, were given a good meal. The system was economical for the working classes, and in time they would come to use it; and the charge on the public purse would be very small. Last year meals to the number of 8,000,000 were served under this system in Paris. The total cost was £75,000, of which the parents paid £20,000, £15,000 was received from voluntary contributions, and public funds paid £40,000. That was the system he suggested for this country. It was economical and thoroughly good business from the Imperial point of view. Why should they not adopt it? The Secretary to the Board of Education said it would break up family life. He could not contemplate, as an official, children gathered together and getting one square meal. That, in his own opinion, was a distant and doctrinaire view, and was only possible from the representative of a University. It was not possible to any one who knew the daily lives of the people. Where was the family life in the New Cut? Let the children be first fed, and then family life would follow.

Another objection was that it would undermine parental responsibility. That was a very substantial objection; and he was bound to face it. But did hon. Gentlemen advocate that the present state of things should continue. Everyone knew that the children were suffering. Were they to be allowed to continue suffering in order that parental responsibility might be developed where they all knew it did not exist? People said that nothing should be done to weaken parental responsibility; and that if the children were fed it would only make dissolute parents more dissolute still. The very people who put that forward were the people who subscribed so liberally to charitable agencies for dealing with this very problem. What was his objection to this charitable system? First of all, real deserving cases would not come under it. They would hide themselves away. Further, charitable agencies invariably broke down. In time of stress, after a hard winter, the whole machinery was shut down when it was most needed. One agency had reduced the number of dinners by thirty per cent.; and the number of breakfasts by fifty per cent. That was invariably the case after a hard winter. His objection was, that it was this very same charitable system which emasculated parental responsibility. No man would spend money on four ale while his children wanted food without a twinge of remorse; but when he found a number of charitable agencies at work he did spend it on beer. If he said to that man, "You have to feed your children or go to goal," that would be the way to develop parental responsibility and to prevent the emasculation of parental obligation. He was deeply grateful to the benevolent people who organised these charitable agencies; but it was they who were emasculating parental responsibility. He said, "Feed the child first." He was not going to let the child remain hungry. He would then follow the parent, and say that he would have to pay for the food of his child or go to gaol. So far from that breaking up family life, he thought that in the long run, and it would not be very long, it would increase family life and the sense of parental responsibility. Take the compulsory clauses of the Education Act of 1870.

*MR. SPEAKER: I am bound to point out to the hon. Member that these observations appear to be directed to legislation rather than to administration.

DR. MACNAMARA said he would not pursue the subject. He would confine himself to what could be accomplished by the Board of Education, and as to the desirability of the Board assisting local authorities by providing permanent machinery and appliances for the purpose of assisting the children who went to school hungry. That could be done at once without legislation; and he did appeal to the Parliamentary Secretary to look at this matter officially with a little more warm-heartedness and full-bloodedness. He could not overestimate its national importance. It was not so much Socialism as Imperialism. It was of the highest importance to the nation that the children who hereafter would have to support the British heritage should be looked after. This year they were expending nearly £30,000,000 on the Army and £33,000,000 on the Navy; yet there was not a single farthing in the Estimates to improve the physical condition of these unhappy children; and there was not a man in the House who did not feel somewhat uneasy about it. Not out of the mouth of the gun or the rifle, but out of the mouths of babes and sucklings strength was ordained that should still the enemy and the avenger.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Mr. Keir Hardie.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now,' stand part of the Question."

SIR JOHN GORST (Cambridge University) said it was quite impossible for him to vote for the Amendment, but he gladly took the opportunity of calling the attention of the Government and of the House to the way in which this question and the Report of the Committee upon Physical Deterioration had been dealt with. The Report was made in July, and when Parliament met in February last it was quite evident that neither the Government as a whole nor any of the Departments concerned had treated this matter seriously with a view to carrying out any of the recommendations of that Committee. He had put Questions to the Home Secretary, the President of the Local Government Board, and the Secretary to the Board of Education, who were all concerned in this matter. All that had been done by the Home Office and the Local Government Board was to appoint a Committee on Vagrancy, and all the Board of Education had done had been to draw up some syllabuses and plans of instruction on hygiene and domestic economy, a work in which the Board of Education was usually very industrious, but not always entirely successful. He was not making an attack on the present Government, because they had merely treated this matter in the way in which all Governments, on both sides of the House, had always treated social questions. All were very great in the appointment of Royal Commissions and even got to the point of Departmental Committees, but when the time came for action, when the time for enquiry and evidence was past and it became necessary for some Department to take some step, they always broke down. They were "ever learning and never able to arrive at the knowledge of truth."

What had become of the original purpose for which this Committee was appointed, which was to ascertain whether the people of this country were, physically, growing better or worse? The Committee reported that they could not tell, as no record had been kept in the past, and they recommended that a record should be kept in the schools; that a certain register should be kept and that the children should be measured and weighed. That was a thing which could be done without legislation, and a thing which in ten years would give a record by which we could tell whether the people were deteriorating or not. Another thing considered by the Committee was the frightful infant mortality in this country and the connection between that and the employment in factories and workshops of mothers soon after delivery. That was a matter which we, with other nations, so earnestly desired to alter at the Berlin Conference. The Committee did not go so far as legislation; they suggested that statistics should be obtained. There were a good many statistics already. In Preston alone the figures were 235 per 1,000—one child in four. Had any effort been made to collect those statistics? Had the subject of collecting statistics ever been considered by any Department of State? Another recommendation was that the powers already existing for procuring a pure milk supply in great towns should be enforced. The Committee pointed out that the Local Government Board had actually powers under statute to move, where the local authority did not, and they recommended that they should be put into operation. The housing question was also considered, the Committee recommending that a register should be kept of the owners of slum property. It was known at present that the owners who now hid themselves were rich men and sometimes members of the Peerage, and it was thought that if their names could be brought to light, and brought before the public, shame itself would influence to better the conditions.

SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan): The owners' names are on the rate books.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): No, they are not.

SIR JOHN GORST thought the hon. Baronet was mistaken. It was further recommended that boys of thirteen who went down into the coal pits should be subjected to the same kind of medical inspection as those who went into factories. Had that been considered? It was recommended that children in infant schools should be delivered from the bondage in which they now lived, and that no child should be forced into an infant school until it was six or seven years of age. He believed the Board of Education had dismissed one of their inspectors for recommending this, but he did not know that they had done anything more. He would not refer to smoking because that was the subject of legislation, although that legislation was left to a private Member to introduce instead of the Government bringing in a Bill, but there was also a recommendation with regard to smoking. The Committee also recommended further inquiry into certain points; had those inquiries been instituted? They recommended an inquiry into the effect of over-fatigue upon children and adults; an inquiry into the question of the sterilisation of milk, as to how it could be carried with a view to its preservation; an inquiry as to how far syphilis affected the population; an inquiry into the question of insanity, far more alarming in Ireland than in England and Scotland, which was said to be promoted by the physically bad condition of the people; and an inquiry on vagrancy. That was the only inquiry that had, he believed, been made. It would be quite apparent to the House that there was a great deal that might have been done and which ought to have been done with regard to the Report of that Committee which had not been seriously considered. It was a state of things that was perfectly appalling and which ought to be put an end to, and he appealed to the Government to seriously consider the Report and to put into operation those small measures which could be put into operation without expense and with only a little official trouble, and not to allow this matter to stand over any further.

What were the Government going to do with the famishing and starving children? Some hon. Members on either side of the House still doubted the existence of starving children, but he did not think after the evidence given in the House itself by the hon. Member for Camberwell, and the overwhelming testimony of the evidence given before the Committee, anyone could doubt the existence of a state of things in which the children were too starved and in too low a condition to do the work of the school in such a way as to profit by the instruction which at such an enormous expense was provided for them at the present time. The hon. Baronet the Secretary to the Board of Education said that the children of the Johanna Street school, which he visited recently, appeared to be doing the ordinary school work in the ordinary way. They were doing it in the ordinary way; they had a blackboard before them and were doing sums——

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) said the question was whether they were doing it in a proper way.

SIR JOHN GORST said they were doing it in a proper way; they were looking at the blackboard and trying to take in the instruction that was being administered to them. When he was there he took the liberty of getting the teachers in a corner, where they could speak freely, and every one of them told the same story—that the children were remarkably slow of apprehension, that it took a long while to get any rule of arithmetic or other instruction into their heads, and that when at last they did succeed, they very soon forgot everything they had learnt. That was exactly the result to be expected from trying to teach a half-starved brain. The brain could not take in ideas; it had no nutrition with which to impress the facts learnt upon the memory, and hence the impression vanished almost as soon as made. If the Secretary to the Board of Education would go into any of these schools and ask questions of the teachers, there was no doubt as to the conclusion to which he would arrive. Children were not properly fed if they had one bowl of soup a day; it might just keep them alive, but it did not afford the nutrition or food necessary to enable children to do the work which the Board of Education placed before them and for which the nation provided such immense sums of money.

Then came the question of feeding the children. He was perfectly amazed at the hostility which the idea of feeding hungry children appeared to excite in some minds. Why should Members be misrepresented and abused because they proposed that a child should be fed before it was taught? In an anonymous letter, recently published, signed "Ex-member of the London School Board," his proposal to feed hungry children was described as one of the most pernicious that the human mind could conceive, and yet the writer finished up by proposing the very principle he had been advocating for some time past, viz., that the children should be fed, and measures taken afterwards to make the parent pay the cost, parental responsibility in that way being maintained. He was one of the strongest supporters of parental responsibility, believing as he did that the family was the proper unit of the nation, and that there could be no happy and prosperous nation unless it was composed of happy, prosperous, and virtuous families. A great objection to the communal system was that it did undermine parental responsibility; but, as bearing on this point, he would read an extract from a letter written by a lady, who, if he could mention her name, would be recognised as a great authority. Referring to schools in a mining district in the North of England where wages were good, she said—

> "We were in a school some time ago, in which quite half the children were wretchedly neglected, unwashed, dressed in rags, half fed, and with all their little ailments neglected. The master told us that they were often kept away from school to exercise their father's dogs. The children, pinched, stunted, in rags, might be seen exercising beautifully groomed, sleek, warmly-dressed, and well fed-dogs. The thing is so monstrous that it laughs at the limitation of speech."

He could see no objection to feeding those half starved and neglected children, and exacting payment from the parent, if necessary, by an embargo upon one of his dogs, and he was convinced that if the local authorities, especially the Poor Law authorities, did their duty by, and recognised the rights of, these children, a great deal of the evil could be cured by mere administrative action without further legislation. These children were born with civil rights, of which from beginning to end they were deprived by their parents, public authorities, and others. Before the child was born its life was endangered by the employment of its mother in a factory; through the same cause it was deprived of its mother's milk and proper care. The number of children sacrificed in that way was enormous. When the children went to school they were entitled to be fed, by their parents in the first instance, but, if the parents omitted to do it, by a public authority. He was told that the relieving officer at Lambeth discovered and reported about two dozen starving children. The condition of these children was vouched for by Dr. Hutchinson, physician to the Children's Hospital in Great Ormonde Street, a great authority on the subject. When asked to send their relieving officer to this school the board of guardians passed a resolution, which was everything that could be desired, instructing the officer to make inquiries into the circumstances and to give immediate relief in cases of actual hunger. He was told, however, that the relieving officer went, but did not relieve a single child, although there were certainly children there who ought to have been relieved. What he wanted the President of the Local Government Board to do was to instruct the board of guardians that every hungry child was entitled to immediate relief.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): There is no doubt about that.

SIR JOHN GORST thought it could not be too widely known that a hungry child had a right to immediate relief.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: A destitute child.

SIR JOHN GORST said a destitute child was one who was hungry and who had no prospect of being fed. He desired boards of guardians to be instructed that such children were entitled to immediate relief, and that they must take measures afterwards against the parents to recover the cost or secure the infliction of punishment if there was gross neglect. He hoped also that the Board of Education would see that the condition of the law was made known to the managers and teachers of every school, and that it would be made part of their duty to report cases of destitution to the Poor Law authorities, in order that the child might be forthwith fed, and thus enabled to perform its school duties. Such a system, if properly administered and energetically carried out, would be a solution of the present difficulty.

With regard to medical inspection, which was recommended in the strongest terms by the recent Committee, he made no attack on the Secretary to the Board of Education. He knew how limited were the hon. Gentleman's powers, and how frequently he had to defend matters he would rather not defend. His attack was directed against the Board itself. He could not understand why the Board of Education delayed matters by appointing a Committee of junior officials to revise the recommendations of the senior officials. It was a matter for grave regret that the question should be hung up by an inquiry so futile and so obviously for the purpose of delay. There was no difficulty, without any legislation, in providing for medical examinations in schools. All that was necessary was to put a clause in the Code stating that after a certain date, say April 1st, 1906, no grant would be paid to any public elementary school in which there was not a satisfactory system of medical inspection approved by the Board of Education. It would be a great misfortune and mistake if the Board were to lay down one cut-and-dried system of inspection for the whole of England and Wales. The system must be adapted to the conditions of the district. The kind of inspection suitable for the dense parts of Manchester or London would be wholly unsuitable for agricultural districts and places with a sparse population. The best plan would be for the Board to lay down the broad principles which such an inspection should satisfy, and leave it to the local authorities themselves to devise the particular system they would adopt. He hoped that even now, at the eleventh hour, the Board would put a clause in the Code saying that such a system of inspection would be required after a certain date next year, and that they would not stop the local authorities from devising their own system by having such a Committee as had been appointed engaged for months in the impossible task of devising a scheme suitable for every locality. He knew the difficulties in this matter, and he did not wish to reproach anyone, but he did urge the Education Department to take this Report into their consideration. They ought to proceed without any delay and with the greatest possible energy to carry out all the recommendations in the Report which could be carried out without legislation, and any legislation which was required could be left to be pushed forward at a more convenient season.

Dr. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye) said he wondered what would be thought of a person who having given £1,000 for a forty h. p. motor-car refused to spend another shilling for the purpose of lubricating it in order to make it work. We were spending £4,000,000 a year upon education in London, and we were afraid to spend the extra halfpenny in the pound which was necessary to act as lubricating oil. It was quite impossible that under the present system a child starving and without food could be in a position to get the benefit of the splendid education now placed before it. If a child was sent in that condition to school it was absolute cruelty, because it was impossible for the underfed child to receive education just as it was impossible for it to do hard physical labour. If a cabman or a costermonger were to take his horse or donkey out to work in an unfit condition the authorities would be down upon him immediately and he would be summoned and punished with the utmost rigour of the law. The law, however, overlooked the poor starving child who had to go to school underfed and hungry, and the Education Department said that it had nothing to do with that sort of thing. He agreed with the Department that all these things should be properly gone into before definite legislative action was taken, but surely the time had arrived now to stop inquiries and to do something in the meantime. The House should not let this black spot be left upon the educational system of this country. When a child was not in a fit condition to receive instruction the little nourishment taken went to the brain, and there was nothing to nourish the muscles, and so the body suffered. The consequence was that in after life, when such children had to do work with their muscles and not with their brain, they were unable to follow ordinary occupations. Was it surprising that they found children in this condition taking early to stimulants? When a child got a mouthful of London gin or beer into his system and felt the stimulus it gave him, he felt that it did him good and for the first time experienced a feeling which he had never experienced before. This was a dangerous condition for the child to be brought up in, and was it surprising that under these circumstances there was such a large increase in the number of unemployed and unemployable? Was it surprising that we found so many deaths in workhouses and lunatic asylums, and could we be surprised if this question became more acute year by year?

"Rattle his bones, over the stones;
He's only a pauper whom nobody owns."

We could not do much for the present generation, we might turn the workhouses into labour colonies; go in for pensions for the aged poor and establish labour bureaux, but we could not do much more for them. We could, however, do something for the rising generation and try by humane treatment to save them from falling into the abyss into which so many had fallen at the present time. The first thing we had to do was to feed these children. Never mind whether it cost us an extra halfpenny on the rates. We should in the end get more out of it than out of any other form of expenditure. The hon. Member for the London University and himself had tried to draw up a scheme to teach children the elements of hygiene. What an irony it seemed to teach them how food acted upon the system when the only thing they had to live upon was a bit of dripping or dried fish. It was time that the educational authorities took this matter more seriously into consideration and endeavoured to do something practical instead of only promising inquiries. They ought to come down to the House and say that from that day forth they were going to put their shoulders to the wheel and do something to put a stop to the present state of things.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said the hon. Member for the Rye Division had been arguing points upon which they were absolutely agreed. They were all aware of the danger of underfeeding, but the difficulty was how was it to be met and remedied? No more important debate could take place in this House than the question of the physically unfit. They knew how physically unfit children were produced by parents addicted to drink and how they were neglected and underfed by such parents. They only needed to turn into any London slum and observe the larrikins loitering about public-houses — men who were born tired and who were no possible use — in order to understand the disadvantage of underfeeding the young. He was anxious to know what steps the Government were going to take in regard to this matter. He was glad to have an opportunity of questioning the Government upon this subject, and he believed they would get a satisfactary answer. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University delivered an interesting speech, in the course of which he said he had received a letter of abuse, and had been abused by other people, because he wanted to feed the hungry children. The hon. Member for the Rye Division had drawn a pathetic picture of the miseries of starving children. Hon. Members sitting on the Ministerial side of the House did not object to the feeding of these poor children, but that was not the question. The question was who should pay for the feeding of these children, and upon whom should the burden fall? The more they went into this subject the more they would see that hon. Members opposite, however Socialistic they might be, did not intend to feed the whole of the children out of the rates. When they realised that, many of the objections entertained on the Ministerial side of the House were certainly waived. He understood that both the hon. Member for North Camberwell and the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil contemplated that the parents should, if possible, be made to pay for the feeding of their children.

DR. MACNAMARA: I do.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said there were many cases where a parent, sooner than spend twopence upon feeding his child, would prefer to spend it upon a pint of beer. He agreed that such men deserved punishment, and if the feeding of children was to be conducted upon that basis then the law should insist upon the parent paying. He confessed that he had changed his opinion upon this subject. In the country districts they did not find the same amount of starvation and they were able to deal with it by private charity. In London, children often came to school hungry and they could tell this by the sad look upon their faces. Everybody agreed that that state of affairs was wrong and ought to be remedied. But the question was how, when, and where was it to be remedied? Was it to be dealt with throughout the country or only in the great towns? He believed it was only wanted in the great towns. In London especially was the pinch of hunger felt amongst the children. He used to have doubts as to whether actually starving children existed, but he had now convinced himself that it was absolutely true.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY (Camberwell, Peckham): No.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said the hon. Baronet the Member for Peckham doubted that statement, but let him visit his own constituency and see if he could find any hungry children there. The pinch was felt in London and in the big towns. They were spending increased sums of money upon higher education and he thought that part of that money might be allocated in a different and a better way. He did not agree that there had been an improvement in regard to parental obligations. He confessed he did not see any improvement. He did think that much might be done by mothers at home. Instead of feeding children on bread bought at the baker's, in which there was little or no nourishment, it would be very much better if mothers would give them bread of their own baking. As to the question of parental obligation, where was it to begin and end? He was afraid that if they went so far as to feed the children they should take away the last vestige of parental obligation. They had been hearing speeches on Socialism, more or less, that afternoon. For years he had heard speeches on Socialism of various sorts in the House of Commons. Socialism was creeping into the House. He could not range himself on the side of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, but if the hon. Member would confine himself to the Socialism he had advocated that day he should have a more kindly thought as to his doctrines for the future. The hon. Member had stated that at Bradford the corporation voted a surplus to the Lord Mayor for the purpose of feeding children, trusting to chance and to his honour that the children would get it. He did not like that method of dealing with the question. It certainly would be better that the ratepayers should be mulcted ½d. or 1d. in the £1 fairly and squarely, and that they should feel the money would be dedicated to the purpose for which it was intended. The Minister for Education had serious responsibilities which were increasing every day. The hon. Member for the Rye Division said the hon. Baronet took a very high and haughty position from which he looked down.

MR. HUTCHINSON: I said the Department did so. I should be sorry to say that the hon. Baronet did so.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said he was glad the hon. Member had withdrawn the epithets so far as the hon. Baronet was concerned, but he did not think the Department deserved the description. They were very hard-working men who were anxious to carry out the duties of their office as well as they could. The matters with which they had to deal were surrounded with difficulties, many of which had not been touched upon that evening. He believed this debate would have a very good effect.

MR. CROOKS said that in the Poor Law union of which he had the honour to be chairman, they found in regard to children who were underfed or not fed at all that they had an average per week of sixty-four medical orders applied for, and these not in respect of regular paupers. Multiplying that number by thirty for the whole of the Metropolis, they would see that instead of saving money by refusing to feed children the cost worked out in the other direction. There was a loss of cash, to say nothing of the valuable lives they might have fed up to become useful men and women. Sometimes it would be a blessing if the children were taken away rather than kept alive under the circumstances in which they had to live. The Home Office administration included the feeding of children at the present moment, and it was therefore wrong to pretend that there was no precedent for doing this kind of work. The argument which was always brought forward was that people should not be relieved from parental control and responsibility, but that was done in the case of children who were sent to industrial schools. He ventured to say that many of them were convicted because of their being beyond parental control. These children were fed and clothed until they reached the age of sixteen, and then the parents who had not done their duty came and took them away when they were useful boys and girls.

If the State at present could find money to feed the child of the blackguardly father, why should not money be found to feed the child of the parent who was too poor to perform his parental responsibility? The child could not go to the Poor Law authorities and ask relief. The parent must apply.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR said the teacher could apply.

MR. CROOKS said that, after all, there seemed to be administrative reform which the right hon. Gentleman could bring about. If the teacher said that a child came to school hungry the matter had to be reported to the relieving officer, who had to make inquiry and satisfy himself that the child was destitute. Then the officer had to go to the child's home to see whether there was destitution there. Unfortunately, the hon. Member said, he had to go through this work every day in the week, and certainly he did not crave for it. He had been a member of a board of guardians for thirteen years, and he could assure the House that the law as it at present stood did not help them much. It was heart breaking what a man in the position of a guardian had to go through week by week in regard to poor children. If they could only get that sympathy which he knew existed in the House put into practical shape, they could settle this question within a week. They should not have Departmental Committees appointed to find out the way not to do it. There could be appliances provided at the schools for cooking food for the children who required to be fed. Bills for the cost should be sent to the parents, who could be asked to attend a committee meeting and show cause why they should not contribute. He asked that this should be done until a proper scheme could be formulated for dealing with underfed children. The first thing the Department insisted on when applications were made for relief—he did not say it was wrong—was that inquiry should be made as to whether there was real destitution. Inquiry meant delay, and a little child could not afford to go for five hours, far less a day, in a state of hunger. He appealed to the representatives of the Local Government Board, the Home Office, and the Education Department to meet in a room at the close of this debate and arrange; as they could if they only would, that no child after Wednesday morning this week should go to school without having a proper meal. He asked that the members of boards of guardians should be relieved from the agonising experiences which he had described. These departments could do it if only they were willing.

MR. FINDLAY (Lanarkshire, N.E.) said he was very much interested in the debate, because he could foresee something practical emerging from it. They were all concerned in the building up of the young people of the country, and in giving them healthy minds in healthy bodies. He quite agreed with regard to what had been said on the question of food; but they did not want to tax the well-doing poor for the sins of others. At the same time, they must realise that this was a very important question. The children must be looked after if the future generation was to be of benefit to the country. He sympathised with the suggestion that medical examination should be carried on on systematic lines under the education authorities. Every practical means of safeguarding the physical and mental growth of the children should be taken. They all deplored the causes which induced parents earning good wages not to spend their money well; but why should a Christian Legislature legalise the sale of intoxicants so largely in the industrial centres, which was the cause of so much misery? If they practically considered this question they would not bolster up the brewers or any similar class, but would make it easier for the working classes to do right, and more difficult for them to do wrong. That would be touching the root of the matter. As regarded medical examination, the eyes of the pupils in the Glasgow district were examined by specialists with good results; and he hoped that this debate would have the effect of similar practical steps being adopted generally. He desired to express his entire sympathy with any proposal for bettering the condition of the children in the direction of good food and fresh air, so that they might be well built up.

SIR GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.) said they all sympathised with the condition of the children referred to. For many years he was associated with the work of education, and he fully recognised the great difficulty of the present position. He recognised that many children went to school in a state which they all deplored. The health of the people was of vital importance; and, as one getting on in life, he could not help realising that the health and vigour of our race did not appear to have developed in the same degree, considering all that had been done during the past generation. He should be delighted to assist in any possible way he could; but in considering this matter, and while being thoroughly sympathetic, let them not lose their common sense. When all was said and done, the State must hold the parents responsible for the children they brought into the world. They would all gladly give what they could if they could do away with the evil; but if they departed from the fundamental principle of maintaining the authority and duty of parents to their families they would not be conferring a benefit on the people generally. The right hon. Gentleman knew very well that the present condition of London was very serious. He, himself, was not a fanatic as regarded drink; but it was idle to contend that that difficulty was not at the bottom of the matter. Every family in the country spent £20 a year on drink; he did not say that that amounted to intoxication; but it was difficult to lay down that the State should maintain the children of a family which did that. That would be a dangerous proposition. If the evil could be overcome, he should be glad to see the State pay large sums; but he was afraid that the making of it easier for children to be fed in the schools would increase the evil at home by inducing parents to send their children to secure meals where they were obtainable. He would regard that with very great apprehension. It was further quite clear to him that if they fed children who were now underfed they would, in a short time, have to feed the majority of children sent to school. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University said that they would enforce payment from the parents. If that were done, he had nothing more to say; but did the right hon. Gentleman mean that by a strict enforcement of the law these parents would be turned into paupers and disfranchised? That should be made perfectly clear. He said emphatically that if these people had to go to the Poor Law for relief, even if the guardians got it back from them afterwards, these people had been made paupers and should be disfranchised. He did not object to that, nor did he believe many persons would if they had to go to that extreme. If they were to really take this step and enforce it, they must do a great deal to enforce parental responsibility, and make parents feed their children. But if they did not enforce it, then all this would do would be to tend largely to the increase of drink. More money would be spent in drink. It was not so long ago that the House discussed the question of education, when this subject was directly touched upon. It was then said that if we gave children free education, and did away with the fees, a great deal of trouble and difficulty would also be done away with; that there would be regular attendance on the part of the children, and that the parents would be able to send their children to school with a good meal. But what had been the result? The fees, which amounted to several millions, had been done away with, the whole cost of £20,000,000 a year had been thrown upon the community, and the physical condition of the children was not better but probably worse than when their parents paid the fees.

This was a very grave question indeed, and he fully agreed that the proper feeding of the children must be secured or the nation could not go on. If the children were not properly fed they could not grow up into healthy and vigorous men and women, but the House must not forget that one of the most important qualities of the nation, one of the qualities on which this nation had been built up, was self-reliance. Men had been taught in the past to rely upon themselves, but now it appeared to him that such action as was suggested tended to do away with that great quality. The children must be fed, but they must not be fed without enforcing the penalty of payment upon the parents. If that were not done the immediate result must be to undermine parental responsibility and do away with the quality of self-reliance. It must also be remembered that somebody must pay for the food. It would not come down from Heaven like manna. It must be paid for by somebody, and such a thing as paying for it out of the rates would make it harder for those persons at the bottom of the social scale who only paid their rates with the greatest difficulty. One of the most alarming things in our great cities, and especially in London, was the growth of the rates, and this suggestion would make it doubly hard on those who tried to keep their homes together respectably. He asked the House to pause before they laid down a law or passed a Resolution granting free meals to the children in this way. It was a step that would have a most serious result, and before they took that step they should be certain that they were maintaining the responsibility of the parents. It must be brought home to people that if they married and had children they would have to fulfil their duties to those children, and that if the children had to be fed at school the parents would not be allowed to go scot-free for their neglect.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said the question had been debated on both sides of the House with great interest, and no one now seemed to be afraid of going far beyond the old lines that used to be drawn on this subject, and doing something to feed the children. He would go further than the hon. Member who had just sat down, who said, "The children must be fed;" he went as far as to say the children must be saved by the State for the State, and that was the basis on which this matter must be discussed. Although the Committee reported that there was no standard by which to judge of the deterioration of our people, they brought sufficient evidence before the House to show that this was a burning question, from the point of view of the children and the nation alike. and if this discussion did not result in some definite plan and early action it would be most disappointing. It was with a view of making some suggestions which might bring about that action that he had risen. Before proceeding further he might say that the House was greatly indebted to the hon. Member for Camberwell, and the right hon. Member for the University of Cambridge, for pressing this question so constantly upon the House by means of Questions to Ministers. It was a subject that should be pressed home in order that some result might be rapidly obtained. It had been said that there ought to be some sort of medical inspection. If medical inspection were made on broad lines without too many details, on behalf of the Board of Education, it would be at once the best means of getting at a knowledge of the physical condition of the children. The first effect of such a medical inspection would be an outcry against the underfed condition of the children in the schools, and some scheme for feeding them with or without the aid of private benevolence could be effected through medical inspection without any legislation. That could be done by the Education Department inserting in their next Code the conditions and the instructions for medical inspection, and by that means we should get a basis of comparison for the children of succeeding generations, and a set of statistics which would be of the greatest importance from a sociological as well as a scientific point of view.

The more practical result, that of feeding the children, could only be effected by greater co-operation of the Departments chiefly concerned. These water-tight compartments maintained between the Board of Education and the Local Government Board should cease to exist; there was too little communication and too much separation between the various offices of State. What was required on questions of this kind was frequent and constant communication between all Departments associated with them in any way. It was only by the co-operation of the Local Government Board with the Education Department that this question could be solved in the immediate future. It could be solved pretty easily if the

Local Government Board would make an effort to encourage the local boards of guardians to step a little beyond the narrow limits to which they had been accustomed and to take a broader view. The infant mortality was a terrible blot, which was pointed out by the Deterioration Committee. That was largely the result of insufficient medical relief at a time when the children wanted that relief. Medical relief did not pauperise the person who accepted it; why should this relief not be accepted in the same way? If we could give medical relief, why could we not feed the children who were attending the schools? That could be done through the recommendation of the teacher who, if he were backed by the medical officers, would always be able to make representations to the Poor Law guardians as to the cases where it was necessary. Parental responsibility was invoked in all these cases as a kind of deterrent. There need be no destruction of parental responsibility. In large numbers of cases relief was given on the conditions of loan; why should not this relief be given in the same way, the cost being recovered from the parents where they were capable of paying? If the parents were unable to pay, of course the Poor Law guardians would forego repayment, but in such a manner as that the feeding of the children could be effected without the loss of any parental responsibility.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON said that the debate had been interesting and had brought forth several suggestions, some of which were rather speculative than likely to bear practical fruit. It was not fair to say that the Board of Education had wholly neglected the recommendations of the Deterioration Committee. In the direction of several of the suggestions made the Board were moving as rapidly as possible. But on the feeding question the Government did not propose to introduce legislation. Hon. Members did not quite realise that the problem of underfed children was not to be solved altogether by the mere supply of meals to the children in attendance at the schools. He had visited a great many of the London schools, and the Johanna Street school was the only one in which he had found a child who had not had any breakfast; but even there it appeared to him the ordinary work of an elementary school could be so arranged as to meet the stunted capacity of such children. He had come to the conclusion that a mere addition of meals to the children would not remedy the state to which many of them had been reduced. He did not think that they could solve the problem of some of those slum schools by the mere provision of meals. In order to meet some of the cases in the poor areas they would need to establish special schools on the lines of the day industrial schools suggested by the hon. Member for Woolwich. He did not think so poorly of those schools. The boys there were mostly truants or boys who had committed small offences. But he had found the boys bright and intelligent, though somewhat restless; but they were being developed physically and mentally in a satisfactory way.

Mr. CROOKS: They are being fed at the expense of the rates.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON: The boys were being fed largely but not wholly at the expense of the rates, and they were occupied only half-time at book work and the rest of the day at manual work. The boys lived at home, had three meals a day, and their condition was thoroughly satisfactory.

Dr. MACNAMARA: That is our case.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON: How were they to establish these schools in poor areas? The children were largely fed at the expense of the rates; the meals were only paid to the extent of a half by the parents, and the course of manual instruction which the children received was naturally more expensive than the ordinary instruction of the public elementary schools. The consequence was that these schools were exceedingly costly to the area in which the parents lived. It appeared to him, therefore that the proposal to establish such schools, to leave it open to the local authorities to do so, or to require that such schools should be established, was undesirable until some inquiry had been made as to whether the Board of Education could not, by recommending a course of instruction suitable for those areas, and the local authorities by focussing charitable effort on certain schools, meet the difficulty. Outside that subject there was the more general question of the child when it came to school insufficiently fed because the parent was sick, or out of work, or because he neglected the child. How were they to deal with this aspect of the problem? They might deal with it under the operation of the Poor Law. He understood that the right hon. Member for Cambridge University made a suggestion that the Poor Law authority, in areas where distress was known to prevail, should provide the meals on proper evidence, and that the parents should then be charged That seemed to him to be a suggestion well worthy to be taken into consideration, and he would undertake to confer with the President of the Local Government Board to see whether it was possible to organise some such method of securing that children were not left destitute and neglected by their parents in the poorer districts of the large towns. But apart from that, and apart from the law which dealt with the neglect of children or cruelty to children, one form of which was neglect, how were they to meet this question of underfeeding? It could only be met by grants from the Exchequer, by raising money from the rates, or by voluntary effort.

DR. HUTCHINSON: Or by all three.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: Or possibly by all three. He was not prepared to make any suggestion as to grants from the Exchequer; and as to the rates, he thought that there was great force in the observation that it was a hardship on the poor ratepayer to provide meals for a fellow-citizen one degree poorer than himself. When it was said that charity would be painful and offensive to the children or the parents, he could not see that there was any distinction if a meal was to be provided for them for nothing whether it was provided by neighbours or by voluntary organisations supported by persons who might not be living in the same rateable area as the parents. Whether or not the meal was supplied by voluntary effort or by rate aid, the person to whom it was supplied did lose something of that independence and self-reliance to which reference had been made. Apart, therefore, from the Poor Law and organisation of special schools, they must be driven to State or rate aid, or to voluntary effort, if they were to find meals for the children. It might be said that meals should be provided for all, that those who could pay must pay, and that those who could not pay need not pay for them. He was glad to hear that in the municipality of Paris, where it was possible to get meals for nothing, the parents were willing to pay so large a sum as that mentioned by the hon. Member for Camberwell, but he thought that they would find, as time went on, greater and greater difficulties in distinguishing between parents in absolute need and those who ought to pay, and free meals would follow. Was that really necessary?

He agreed that there was a considerable number of children sent to school who needed food. But the Lambeth Board of Guardians, after inquiring into cases brought before them by the party which visited the Johanna Street school, came to the conclusion that the great bulk of the persons under review could provide meals for their children if they would. Some of the parents were already in receipt of outdoor relief; others said the breakfasts were provided and therefore they need not provide them; while some boys who came to school without breakfast did so because they had got up too late to eat it. The special cases inquired into were not cases of need, and the general notice issued by the guardians only produced one application. These facts showed that it was possible in some districts to exaggerate, not the need of the children, but the incapacity of the parents. Supposing meals were supplied, he thought that some parents would decidedly object to their children being fed by the ratepayers. He had seen a letter from a man who described himself as a Radical and a free-trader, strongly opposing State-aid for the maintenance of children, who stated that he had forbidden his children to take the meals provided by a certain organisation. But it was possible to go a step further than free meals. In some board schools teachers said that the great difficulty was the clothes and the boots;

and another stage in this problem might be reached when they would be told that money was being wasted on education and food unless they went a step further and provided clothes. He fully admitted the disability under which he laboured, as representative of a University, who was supposed to take only an academic view of life, but what he had stated as to the injury that would be done to the poor by the breaking up of home life and family meals, came from people who had lived among the poor for many years, and who told him that the common meal and the duty of preparing it were a valuable and humanising feature in the life of the poor.

The Interim Report of the Physical Deterioration Committee contained a remarkable variety of suggestions. One Gentleman, who spoke with much experience of Manchester, said that free meals necessarily followed free education; an eminent medical man said that children must be fed, but parents must not be pauperised. The secretary of the Charity Organisation Society said—

> "Bring the Poor Law into operation wherever you can; only give free meals after strict investigation and not in school.

It seemed to him, from inquiries he had made, that the people who knew something of the homes of the children and the lives of the poor took a different and somewhat sterner view of the feeding of children from those who attended a school and saw the children assembled there in all their hunger and poverty. It was impossible to go into one of these schools without a strong desire to do something immediately to feed, clothe, and improve the condition of the children, but one knew that to take large legislative action would be to take a step that could not possibly be recalled, and which might injure the life of this country for generations to come. So he asked that in a question of such great and vital importance time should be given—not without using voluntary efforts in the direction he had mentioned—and that they should not be called upon to take any rash and large steps in this matter.

The Board of Education might do something—it could not do much—by administration. Local authorities might do something in the way of organisation, but voluntary effort, not merely by the grant of money, but by the endeavour to recreate the life of the poor in our large towns, might do much more. There were several voluntary societies doing excellent work in this way. There was the great National Health Society, which was just being started and which was designed to do a great deal by voluntary organisation to improve the health of the people over the length and breadth of the land. Then there was the Ladies Public Health Society at Manchester, whose members had gone about amongst the poor endeavouring to teach them how to improve their homes and live the life which all desired to see led by the working classes. There were other smaller societies which he could name, which by associating managers and teachers and other voluntary workers, accomplished good work by going into the homes of the poor children and endeavouring to instil into the parents a proper sense of parental duty, and ascertaining those cases which should be assisted and those which should not. But he felt very strongly that although they should lose no chance by administration of aiding local authorities and voluntary societies to provide proper sustenance for the children whom they were endeavouring at so great a cost to educate, they must to some extent trust to the self-sacrifice and the human sympathy of those who devoted their lives to work among the poor. But he for one would never be willing to take a step which would only be driving the evil deeper, which would injure the social life and the whole sentiment and feeling of the poor, and which might set back for an indefinite number of years the regeneration of the life of the poor in the poorest districts of our large towns. He regretted that he could not offer more; but he would undertake that, as far as administration went, he would see what could be done to instruct local authorities to organise voluntary efforts in the direction which the House on both sides desired.

MR. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs) expressed a deep sense of disappointment at the speech of the representative of the Board of Education, seeing there had been no attempt at an official denial of the appalling revelations of the Blue-book. None of the great facts upon which this Motion rested had in any respect been impugned or contraverted in any official quarter. As to what was to be done with the underfed children not one spark of light or one word of encouragement had come from the Board of Education. It was almost incredible that the official reply did not contain one word about the most important subject of a systematic course of medical inspection of the schools of the country. He could not understand why Royal Commissions and Select Committees were appointed if the results of their inquiries were to be absolutely ignored by the Department of State concerned.

*Sir WILLIAM ANSON (interrupting) regretted that he had omitted to state that every local education authority had power to appoint medical inspectors to every school, and a Committee was now inquiring into what was actually being done by local authorities and with what results.

Mr. THOMAS SHAW said he was pleased to have elicited that declaration. He thought that if a Minute, emphatically worded, were circulated among all education authorities calling attention to this power it would do immense good. If that were done the beginning of the end would come. Once the doctors were admitted into the schools we should get statistics in the way of measurements of height and weight, and in particular we would get the dimensions of brain and other statistics, which would form the foundation for all legitimate and proper action on the part of the local authorities. He again urged the Board of Education to issue the circular, because a great deal depended on a good schedule filled in from time to time with particulars which would afford material for comparative statistics on which we could build up a case as to underfed children.

On the general question of underfeeding the House might well consider the gravity of the position. He had studied the Blue-books, and he ventured to say he was within the mark in declaring that in the working classes of this country there were underfed children in the proportion of from 16 to 20 per cent. of the entire attendance in the schools. That was a most appalling state of matters, and yet the official responsible for the system which injured the manhood of the next generation in this way had not one word to say to help the House on this fundamental social problem, except to hope for greater effort in the direction of private charity. The hon. Baronet was haunted by the fear of undermining self-reliance and parental responsibility. No one who had taken part in the debate had asked that anything should be done to undermine that responsibility. What they did maintain was that parental responsibility would not cure the question which they had to solve, namely, What are we to do with those children we have introduced into the schools? They would not be fed, because we had a pious opinion as to the duty of their parents. They had not in the past been fed, the State relying on individual or organised charity. They would only be fed when the State came to realise that, having taken the children off the street and compelled them to listen to instruction, the State had a responsibility to feed the children who were so treated. All animals, human or otherwise, which had empty stomachs began to forage for the means to fill them, and the only animal that was prevented from doing that in this country was the little human animal that was taken into school and confined under our compulsory system of education to a room for a certain number of hours with a starving stomach. The child was prevented from going out and foraging for himself by begging or working in order to relieve the craving of nature. He maintained that the State which confined children for a certain number of hours daily was responsible to see that they were fed.

He had a simple suggestion to make to the Board of Education which was not open to the objection of undermining parental responsibility or self-reliance. His proposal was threefold. In the first place, that they must give administrative effect to all the recommendations that had been made with regard to regular medical inspection. Then they ought to give administrative effect to the recommendations with regard to the provision of buildings and apparatus for the cooking of meals for the children. Having done that, the children should be fed, and, whether the meals were supplied from outside or not, a record should be kept of all the children who were fed, and there ought to be in each school board, or managing committee, a sub-committee which might be called the nutrition or feeding committee.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON: I do not see how the local authorities can be empowered to provide apparatus for cooking meals for children unless the power is conferred upon them by legislation.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: May I ask whether it is not a fact that school boards exercise that power now? Have they been surcharged for doing so?

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON dissented.

MR. THOMAS SHAW said he thought the hon. Baronet was wrong. In his opinion, if that power was exercised prudently it would be within the regulations and would not be made a matter of objection by the auditors. The last step he proposed completely covered all this doctrine about self-reliance and parental responsibility. He would give the school authority which had investigated the condition of all the children, knew the families, and had visiting committees, the power to issue a precept for the supply of meals for one, two, or three months, and the effect of that precept would be equal to a warrant at law for the recovery of the money cost of the meals, in the same way as a warrant issued for the recovery of taxes. The drunken parent would be caught by that means at once. He did not say whether that was or was not on the thin line between administration and legislation, but what was wanted was to get at the root of this national misery and mischief. All the honest and capable parents who wished to pay would pay immediately, and the whole of the doctrine about self-reliance and parental control would fall to the ground. He entirely objected to the Poor Law being brought in as an engine for extracting this money. What they ought to have was a view of the whole situation, the Education Department guiding the school boards or school committees who had a knowledge of the home life of the children; and only in those cases where there was drunkenness along with capacity would the precept he issued and the money recovered.

Further, he altogether objected to the scheme suggested by the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken. His scheme was to gather all those cases of underfed children and form them into separate communities, with separate schools, in order that, with the assistance of the Poor Law or otherwise, the segregated children might be provided with meals. It would be a most unfortunate thing to contemplate that simply because children were underfed they should be tainted with the idea of pauperism, housed separately from other better-clothed and better-fed children, the very mixture with whom should be the first branch of the education of these little people. Might he say that he did think that they had got further upon this question than that a Minister of the Crown should actually say that if we began to give free meals we would be troubled with our old friend the open door; that it would mean free clothing, and that we should be on the down grade. Free meals were only one of the social remedies for a great social grievance. He knew that clothing was a great want in many humble homes, but because of that we should not be deterred from addressing ourselves now to what was proved to be a very clamant and different case.

He did not hesitate to say that he had felt very much inclined to follow the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Cambridge University that the House should not divide on this question; but having heard the speech just delivered by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education, his duty took a very different shape. It seemed to him that the House of Commons was bound to protest against such doctrines. With the Board of Education, it was not merely *non possumus*, but *non volumus*—they would not try to do it. They did not propose to look out for power to do anything but issue these schedules. In the meantime these poor mites were going underfed to school. That the case was clamant was proved by repeated inquiries under the authority of Royal Commissions and of Committees of the House. What more was required? The testimony was before them and the case must be dealt with. Misery was going on; the school was planting the seeds of education on soil in many cases absolutely unfitted to receive it. This session would not pass over in regard to Scotland until this subject was very fully thrashed out. There was a Bill before the House, and the Scotch Members would see that clauses were put forward to deal with cases of the most clamant character. They hoped to get the support of the Government of the day in giving effect to these enlarging clauses; and that the people North of the Tweed would be dealt with in such a manner as to enable them to show that their view of Imperialism was very different from that taken in this more backward region of the Empire. They did not believe that Imperialism was to be found in rickety constitutions in their children; and they hoped that some substantial progress would be made with this great and important question.

Mr. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside) said that he could not vote for the Motion before the House, for if carried it would upset the whole financial arrangements of the country, because it would mean the rejection of the Appropriation Bill. He admitted that on the question of applying a remedy for meeting the case of underfed children there was a very strong feeling. Of course the crux of the whole question was parental responsibility. His hon. friend the Member for Hoxton and himself had drafted a Bill in which they had made an honest attempt to deal with the question, and he hoped that they should have the support of hon. Gentlemen opposite.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 159. (Division List No. 88.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hn. A.J (Manch'rs
Balfour,RtHnGerald W.(Leed)
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, Sir Francis T.(Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach,RtHn.SirMichael Hicks
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles,Lt.-Col.H.F(Middlesex)
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell,Rt.Hn.J.A(Glasgow)
Campbell,J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish,V.C.W.(Derbyshire)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A(Worc.)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig,Charles Curtis(Antrim,S.
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cust, Henry John C.
Dalkeith, Earl of
Davenport, William Bromley-
Davies,Sir HoratioD.(Chatham
Denny, Colonel
Dewar, SirT.R.(TowerHamlets
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Rt.Hn.SirJoseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland,SirFred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Dyke, Rt. Hn.SirWilliamHart
Egerton, Hon. A de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants,W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt.Hn.Sir J.(Manc'r
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,SirR.B.(Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald,SirRobert Penrose-
Fitzroy,Hon.Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin&Nairn)
Gordon,Maj.Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen,Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene,Henry D.(Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric

Hamilton,RtHnLordG.(Midd'x
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath,Sir James(Staffords.NW
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A.(Stafford,W.)
Hermon-Hodge, Sir Robert T.
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard,John(Kent,Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt.Hn. Arthur Fred.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar(Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph(Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,Hn.H.L.W (Mile End)
Lawson,JohnGrant(Yorks.N.R
Lee, ArthurH.(Hants.Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long,Rt.Hn. Walter(Bristol,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas,ReginaldJ (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Calmont, Colonel James
M'Iver,Sir Lewis(EdinburghW)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell,RtHnSirH.E.(Wigt'n)
Maxwell,W.J.H (Dumfreisshire
Milner,Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu,Hn. J.Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan,DavidJ(Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone,W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D.(Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley,Rt. Hn.Lord(Lancs.)
Stewart, Sir MarkJ.M'Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirC.EH(Sheffield
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond,Rt.Hn.Sir WilliamH.
Wanklyn, James Leslie
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Sir Charle G. E. (Notts)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W.H.(Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan-(Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin,CharlesRamsay(Galway
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Charles M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Ellice,Capt EC(S.Andrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay,Alexander(Lanark,NE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt.Hon.Sir Arthur D.
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson,Dr.Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones William (Carnarvonsh)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy,Vincent P.(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry

Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Perks, Robert William
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Wallace, Robert
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Keir Hardie and Dr. Macnamara.

And, it being after half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Order read, for resuming adjourned debate on Question (March 27th), "That the Bill be now read a second time."

Question again proposed.

*SIR THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.) said he desired to direct the attention of the Government to the question of the encouragement of Irish fisheries. He and his colleagues had repeatedly urged the claim of the Irish fisheries and Irish fishermen to Government assistance, but so far without any practical result. The late Chief Secretary promised, two or three sessions ago, to institute an inquiry into the subject. He thought they were entitled to ask what had become of that inquiry, and, if it had been held, that the result of the investigation should be made public. In July last, again, they had what he regarded as a distinct Parliamentary pledge from the Secretary to the Treasury that, if the Chief Secretary came forward with a definite scheme, he would give it all the assistance in his power. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had a very large surplus and might very well spare a few thousands of pounds toward carrying out the pledge given by the Secretary to the Treasury.

The development and encouragement of the Irish fisheries was a matter in which the people of Ireland took a very great interest. It affected practically the whole of the country, North, South, East, and West, and so far as that part of the country with which he was acquainted was concerned, the counties of Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, and Waterford, every single public body had unanimously invited the Government to deal with this question, and to relieve the fishermen from the great distress under which the fishing industry at the present time was labouring. The fishermen themselves all along the coast had held meetings and had called upon their representatives in the House to speak for them, and had brought every pressure they could to bear upon the Government to remedy the present unsatisfactory conditions. So far as the Irish Party was concerned they were determined to assist these men, to the best of their power. They warned the Government that this was a matter they would have to take up very shortly, if they did not take it up now; that it was a question of extreme urgency and the Irish Members would not let it drop. The fishing population of Ireland had diminished to an extraordinary degree of recent years. In many places with which he was acquainted there were only half the boats that were there in other times; the fishing population were emigrating year by year. Ireland was losing the best of her people, and it seemed to him a most extraordinary thing that while the British Government encouraged the riff-raff of Europe to settle in this country they would not take any step whatever to prevent the emigration that was going on at the present time of the ancient race of the country.

He did not at this moment ask for specific legislation, as that would be out of order, but that the administrative facilities that the Government already possessed should be put into operation. It was neither a difficult nor a very large question to deal with , nor was it insoluble if common sense was brought to bear upon it. There were many places along the coast where a very little judicious expenditure would stop emigration by providing employment for the community, which would return to its old industry and earn its living. They had all heard that under a Unionist Government a new era was dawning for Ireland, and that all sorts of industries were to be established and encouraged by a benevolent Government. To his mind it was far better and much cheaper to preserve those industries which existed than to establish others. The emigration from Ireland could only be stopped by providing employment for the people. The encouragement of the fishing industry, with the consequent revival of the kindred industries, boat building, fishing-gear manufacturing, sail making, and the like would go far to prevent emigration and keep the people in the country.

He had been a great admirer of the work which had been done by the Congested Districts Board, but he thought in this connection that Board had missed a great opportunity. The Congested Districts Board had been in the habit of encouraging, in certain districts of the West, the fishing industry, and had been in the habit of giving boats and fishing gear to the people of those districts where it was in their opinion desirable that this industry should be encouraged, but those boats and that gear had been generally brought from either Scotland or the Isle of Man. Had they procured those boats and that gear in Ireland it would have gone at any rate some way to establish those trades allied to the fishing industry; and that in itself would have been good policy, as they would have done something for local industries which were now languishing. For years he had commended this suggestion to the Chief Secretary, and he now hoped that in future any boats and gear required would be procured in Ireland. He invited the right hon. Gentleman to go down to Arklow and see a boat which had been recently launched there (a boat built by Arklow shipwrights with Arklow workmen) if he did, he thought he would find that that boat was equally well built and just as cheap as any boat built either in Scotland or the Isle of Man. It was not the habit of Chief Secretaries for Ireland to go among the people, but he thought it would be a good thing if the right hon. Gentleman broke through that tradition and learnt from the people themselves their wants and their wishes, and how they might be best served. The right hon. Member would find many places along the coast where for a very small expenditure he could greatly improve the fishing industry. He would also see some relics of the monumental incapacity of Dublin Castle in the past; for instance, he would see at Arklow, the largest fishing centre in Ireland, with a population of 1,000 fishermen, all expert mariners, a pier so constructed that the fishing fleet was not able very often to get out of the harbour or, being out, was unable to get in. That wonderful pier had been constructed with the money of the ratepayers of Wicklow and Wexford by the Irish Board of Works, and was so constructed that at certain tides and during the prevalence of certain winds it was impossible to get outside the harbour or, if outside, it was impossible to get in again. The whole of last autumn's fishing was lost owing to the construction of this harbour, and the people of Wicklow and Wexford were now repaying a loan which had been thrust upon them, and from which they had received no benefit. Not only had they built Arklow Harbour, but many others beside. They had taxed themselves to their utmost capacity, and they could not tax themselves further. He submitted that it was the duty of the so-called Government of the country to protect the industries of the country, and fishing being the largest industry after that of agriculture, it was the duty of the Government to come forward and put straight the mal-administration of the past. It was not fair to ask the local ratepayers to spend more money in the development of the fishing industry having regard to the enormous sums that they had spent in the past, and to the fact that they were not in a position to give more money. Arklow Harbour was a scandal, such as in any other country on the face of the earth would be impossible. They expected the Government to come forward, and take this matter up seriously. The question was a perfectly easy one to deal with. The Government had a remedy in their own hands. All they had to do was to extend the operation of the Marine Works Act to those parts of the Irish coast to which it did not now apply, and if they showed by such action that they were desirous of remedying this evil they would receive the assistance of every section of the community in Ireland.

MR. POWER (Waterford, E.) said he was glad his hon. friend had brought this matter to the attention of the House. It was a matter with which he was honourably identified, and no Irishman could have done a better thing for Ireland. This state of things was a commentary upon the government of Ireland. It had always been asserted, but they denied the assertion, that this Government was only too anxious and willing to do everything it could for Ireland. But, even if the Government were willing, the congestion of business in the House was such that it was impossible for them to bring forward any policy to deal with this matter, having regard to their many other duties. His hon. friend the Member for North Wexford had alluded to the decay of the Irish fisheries. That decay had been lamentable, but he doubted whether it was one whit worse than the decay which had taken place in other Irish industries. Industrial decay was marked wherever they went in Ireland, and the state of things was simply appalling. The fishing industry had suffered enormously, and so far from apologising for bringing forward this case he thought this country owed restitution to Ireland for the way they had put down Irish industries in the past. The Irish fisheries were no exception to this rule. The decay of Irish fisheries, as Mr. Lecky pointed out in his "History of Ireland in the Eighteenth Century," was to be ascribed, in the first instance, to jealous English legislation. Even Froude, in no measured language, detailed the steps taken to put down the fishing industry in Ireland. Not long ago, in a speech to his constituents at Dover, the late Chief Secretary for Ireland quoted an eloquent passage from the writings of Lord Dufferin in which he wrote of the jealous legislation which had crushed and killed the industries of Ireland. That was the condition of Ireland to-day, and what steps were being taken to improve it? At the present time they heard a good deal about protection, but Ireland did not need protection against the so-called foreigner, but protection from her nearer neighbours, whose jealousy of Ireland's trade had destroyed every Irish industry that promised at one time to be successful.

How were they being treated at the present time? The Board over which Sir Horace Plunkett presided had acted with great liberality towards his constituency. The local authorities in his division had, however, been obliged to borrow money at a high rate of interest, and the time allowed for repayment was only twelve years. The local authorities had found large sums of money, although the local rates stood at 8s. 6d. in the £. It was true that the Agricultural Board had supplemented the efforts of the local authorities, but had it not been for the generosity of the county council nothing would have been got from the Government Department. With regard to the fisheries he thought Ireland had been treated in the most scurvy way by the Admiralty. They passed a Bill prohibiting trawling in Scotland within certain areas, the only result of which was that Ireland suffered in consequence, because those trawlers had now turned their attention to Irish waters instead of Scotch waters. The Admiralty had refused to grant them a gunboat for the protection of Irish fisheries, although he was informed that the Scotch Fishery Board had two or three gunboats placed at their disposal. He was aware that the waters along the Irish coast were patrolled by vessels belonging to the Department and paid for by them, but Ireland got no direct assistance from the Admiralty, whereas their friends in the North of Scotland were not placed in that unfortunate position. He thought that was a practical question, and the Chief Secretary might interest himself in that matter. If some gunboats were placed at the disposal of the Department some of the money now spent upon their own boats might be spent in a better way.

The condition of Arklow had been alluded to, and the state of things existing there was an absolute disgrace to this country, and could not obtain in any other country in the world where they had representative institutions and representative government. The practice appeared to be in the House that when Irish Nationalists pronounced in favour of any Motion or measure that was taken as a signal by hon. Members opposite to march into the division lobby against them. Ireland gained nothing by the Navy Votes, and when they asked for any assistance from the Admiralty they turned a deaf ear to their appeals. This was only one of the many ways in which the material interests of Ireland were neglected. He agreed with the hon. Baronet the Member for North Wexford that it was better to keep alive the industries they now possessed than start new ones. The fishing industry was one of their oldest industries, and it ought to be fully developed. Failing industries kept a country back and prevented people embarking in fresh enterprises. The fishing industry was one in which they had the material at hand. Accordingly it was incumbent upon Parliament to endeavour to undo, as far as possible, the effects of these evil enactments by providing harbours and encouraging boat-building and sail-making in the fishing districts. No greater condemnation of English rule could be found than the dwindling of the population of Ireland, which, after all, was the standard by which every country judged its prosperity.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.) said, as he understood what had been said in the debate by hon. Members opposite, the arguments divided themselves into two heads. In the first place it was held that it was a striking commentary on the administration of Ireland under the Act of Union that the harbours in the South-East of Ireland had been so much neglected by the Government; and secondly, that those harbours had a prior right to be dealt with before any others.

*Sir THOMAS ESMONDE: I said this was a question which affected the North as well as the South. I said nothing about prior right.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE accepted the hon. Baronet's explanation, but he had had the advantage during the recess of reading his speeches and letters in support of a movement on behalf of the south-eastern ports of Ireland which the hon. Baronet the Member for North Wexford undertook to press forward in the House. He remembered particularly well the advice the hon. Baronet gave in a published letter in which he said that until the fishermen of the South of Ireland took to breaking panes of glass they would never get listened to at Westminster. He understood that the hon. Baronet pledged himself to press that forward with vigour. From the references the hon. Baronet made to ports only situated in the south-east corner of Ireland he assumed he had been acting up to his pledges. They had heard a great deal about the treatment which the South-East of Ireland had received from the Government. They were told it was a striking commentary on the Act of Union. The hon. Baronet said that they had pressed on the Government, so far without success, the claims of these harbours and ports. It was not fair to the House that statements should be made which would convey to it that, under the Act of Union, nothing had been done for that coast. Why, there was £250,000 voted for Irish piers and harbours under the Fisheries Act in

1883, and a Return was published on June 25th, 1898, which showed how that money was spent. In the county of Waterford there was a total of £15,500, in Wexford under that Act £7,785, in Wicklow £20,000, and under another Act in Arklow £40,000. And this wretched little corner of Ireland which was causing all this agitation got about £150,000 under one Act or another inside the last thirty years. Yet the Nationalist Members complained that that was the treatment Ireland received under the Act of Union. He thought it was most creditable treatment. And it was not a straight or right thing that Members from that part of the country should complain that so far they had met with no success and that nothing had been done for them.

An HON. MEMBER: Were those grants or loans?

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE said that most of them were grants, but even if they were loans those particular districts got the advantage of Imperial credit. He wished to tell the House what had been done in those parts of Ireland where they had not been encouraged to break panes of glass in order to call attention to their grievances and where they obeyed the law of the land. There was a district around Belfast comprising a coast line of about 150 miles. The sum of £82,000 had been spent under the last Act, and what had this district got? Portrush, out of £250,000, got £1,340 spent by the Board of Works in 1888. In the following year a tempest arose and the concrete blocks put there by the Board of Works were swept away into the Channel. From that day to this the harbour had been rendered worse than it was before. The difficulties of the harbour had been doubled by the debris placed there by the Board of Works. The Government Department must have found that there was a necessity for this work or they would not have spent £1,300. The constituency represented by the hon. Member for North Wexford in the last ten years had got the surplus of this £250,000.

A NATIONALIST MEMBER: It is wasted in the same way.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE replied that it might be wasted, but they were getting the money. Ulster could not get that. And in the case he had mentioned he approached the Board of Agriculture time after time, and although the Government had admitted the necessity for these particular works, nothing had been done—simply because they did not go on the lines of the hon. Baronet the Member for North Wexford and advise their constituents to break panes of glass. This was another illustration of the beautiful doctrine lately known as conciliation. He believed it was still known as conciliation, but he had reason to understand that it was not quite so much in force. Last summer, early in the spring, [Laughter]—early in the spring of last year he brought before the Chief Secretary the complaint that the harbour at Portrush was being filled up with sand. It was a very important thing for Portrush, as all that part of the country depended very largely on the tourist traffic. Special tourist boats ran every day to Ardrossan, and they ran weekly to other ports in Scotland, and it meant a very great deal to the farmers, and to the car drivers and hotel keepers. In order to meet the exigencies of the tourist traffic he asked the Chief Secretary whether, to enable those boats to come into the harbour, he could grant them the use of the Government dredger, because the Board of Works had two dredgers. In those days conciliation was in full swing, and the answer he got from the Chief Secretary was that the only Government dredgers were both in Nationalist harbours. Later on there was a development in the other direction which almost proved the case. Besides, the hon. Baronet the Member for West Wexford's glass-pane cracking brigade kept up an agitation in November and December last, and there was a meeting held in Dublin of the people interested in the south-eastern harbours who already had £100,000 in their pockets, and were asking for more. At the meeting they had a letter from the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Mr. T. P. Gill, a gentleman who formerly sat on the Nationalist benches, and who certainly had not lost his sympathy with the objects of the Nationalist Members.

There was a gentleman who wrote and complained that Arklow was filled up with sand—exactly what he told the Chief Secretary about the harbour of Portrush. Well, Mr. Gill, on the very first complaint being made, at once made arrangements to have Arklow dredged. Arklow had had £40,000 already. They got the money.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): The Board of Works misspent it.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE replied that they got the benefit of the credit of the money. He could quite understand why they wanted to keep Sir Antony MacDonnell at Dublin Castle. When they had Mr. Gill in charge of the Department of Agriculture they could understand why Arklow got the dredger, while Portrush was left to shift for itself. Arklow got the dredger because it was the one town in Ireland in which no Protestant was allowed to preach in the streets. For any man in Arklow to call himself either Unionist or Protestant simply meant that he would be driven out of the town. That was the position of affairs. All he could say was that he and his colleagues intended that there should be fair play in Ireland in these matters, and that not even the influence of Sir Antony MacDonnell or of Mr. Gill should ensure that a district which had already had £100,000 should take priority over that part of the country where all it had had from the Government, most of which had been honestly repaid, could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Mr. COGAN (Wicklow, E.) said that both with regard to street preaching and the question of grants the statements of the hon. Member for North Antrim were inaccurate. Arklow was the only town in the southern province of Ireland where street preaching was permitted every Sunday all the year round. But the question of street preaching was of small importance as compared with the preservation of the people and the protection of their means of livelihood; therefore he would deal with the question of grants. The hon. Member stated that £100,000 had been given to the south-eastern coast. As a matter of fact, £140,000 had been wasted on harbours in the county of Wicklow alone. At Arklow £35,000 was spent upon a harbour, £23,000 of the money being a loan but the harbour was found to be so absolutely useless that the Wicklow Grand Jury at the Spring Assizes in 1885, almost directly after the completion of the harbour, passed a resolution pointing out that the harbour had been constructed against the express wishes and views of the people most concerned, and asking for an early inspection in order that the cess-payers might be relieved of a useless expenditure. An inspection was made, and, it being found that the harbour was crumbling away, a further expenditure of £7,000 was sanctioned. After a period of thirteen years the harbour became filled up with sand, and for five years the harbour commissioners endeavoured to dredge the harbour, but they were unable to keep it clear of sand. In 1903 the harbour became permanently filled up, and the fishing fleet were unable to get out, or, if they got out, they were unable to get in again. The harbour commissioners were constantly pressing the Government to do something, and in the early spring of last year a dredger was sent down, but it was unable to clear the sand. Thus a population of 3,000, who were dependent upon fishing, had been rendered helpless, and the local industries had been practically extinguished through their inability to ship their produce from the harbour. The people of Wicklow then approached the Department of Agriculture, but it was not until long after public bodies and county councils had taken action that the Department promised to do something. The agitation was not set on foot by the hon. Baronet the Member for North Wexford; it had been going on for years. At a meeting attended by delegates from the county councils of Dublin, Wicklow, Wexford, and Waterford, there was passed a strong resolution calling upon the Government to take action in the matter; that resolution was confirmed by the county councils themselves and by every harbour commission and rural council in the four counties. At the end of 1903 the Board of Works sent their chief engineer to survey the harbour, and the detailed report submitted by that officer fully confirmed the original contention of the people of Wicklow with regard to the position and manner in which the harbour had been constructed. He hoped the Chief Secretary would study that report with a view to the adoption of the recommendations of the chief engineer.

The representatives of the south-eastern counties were anxious that the Marine Works Act should be extended to all the maritime counties of Ireland. They had no selfish views in the matter, their desire being that the Government should do its duty to all counties. The fishing industry, which was of supreme importance to the people of Ireland, had been totally neglected in the past, as would be made abundantly clear by a comparison between the treatment given to English and Scotch fisheries and that meted out to Ireland. The Department of Agriculture were anxious to do all they could, but their means were very limited. Here was a case in which public money had been expended in such a way that the expenditure would be absolutely worthless unless some further works were carried out, and he submitted that there was no commercial concern in the country that would hesitate to undertake a small additional expenditure to make previous large expenditure remunerative. It was one of the first duties of the Government to look after the people, and they ought now to come to the rescue. The Board of Works was a monument of bad works; everything they had done in the matter of harbours and piers had been a failure. On the harbour at Wicklow £67,000 was spent; the whole of the money was a loan, and had had to be repaid with 4¼ per cent. interest, with the result that Wicklow and the guaranteeing baronies had been charged with £3,300 a year. That harbour and the town itself were now threatened with complete destruction. Then, again, at Greystones some £20,000 had been absolutely thrown into the sea. When the harbour was supposed to have been completed it was examined by the county surveyor, but it was in so ruinous a condition that he refused to certify for it, and the Grand Jury declined to take it over. On these three harbours £140,000 had been wasted, and he asked the Government, in the name of common sense, to take steps to put the harbours in a proper condition, so that that large expenditure should not be altogether thrown away. Such a state of things would not be tolerated in a Scotch or English harbour for a single week, but because the Irish were a patient people this kind of thing went on year after year without anything being done. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take the matter in hand, and have steps taken to improve the condition of affairs of which they complained.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said the people of the North of Ireland felt that they had been neglected under recent sinister influences while the South and West of Ireland had been unduly favoured, but his intervention was to point out that even where money had been spent on a northern constituency it had not been very wisely applied. The pier at Portavogie had been greatly damaged, if not absolutely swept away by a recent gale. The point he wished to emphasise was that that pier was constructed against all local opinion and local knowledge, and on a plan against which the county council of Down, other local influences, and he in Parliament, had over and over again protested. He wished to make an appeal on behalf of Bangor, because no fishing boats could go there at low tide. The county council had given its approval in regard to some improvements there, and he trusted that the new Chief Secretary would do something to help on these local claims which, although they might appear small matters to bring before the House of Commons, were yet of vita importance to the localities concerned. He hoped that in the future Ireland would receive fair treatment all round in these matters.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway) said his object in rising was to call attention to certain matters which he had brought before the notice of the Chief Secretary last year. The hon. Member for North Antrim had informed the Nationalist Party that they were a window-breaking brigade.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE: Hear, hear!

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN, continuing, said the hon. Member had also said that they were insolent and had many other sins. Those were somewhat hard epithets to use against them, but when they remembered who it was that used them they were inclined to let them pass unnoticed. The charge which Nationalist Members made was that their constituencies were being neglected in regard to public works, and upon this point the hon. Member for North Down said that they were right.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: I did not intend to do so.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN said the hon. Member for North Down said that the grants given to certain harbours were wasted, and that was precisely the charge which Nationalist Members made.

Mr T. L. CORBETT said he entirely agreed with every word which the hon. Member for North Antrim had said. What he said was that some of the money which had been spent by the Government on the harbours in the North of Ireland had not been wisely spent.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN said the hon. Member for North Antrim had been giving them a lesson on loyalty. There was one man to whom the hon. Member ought to have been loyal, and where was he now? If there ever was a man to whom the hon. Member opposite ought to have been loyal it was the late Chief Secretary for Ireland. This was the Gentleman who was preaching loyalty to the Irish Members. The Unionists of Ireland were only loyal when they got everything. His constituency of Galway had not had one penny from the Government in the way of assistance of any kind for the last three years.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE said the hon. Member was evidently in error about his own constituency. If he would look at the Return from which he had quoted he would see that since the year 1883 Galway had received from the Government £30,000.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN said he was speaking of the poor country around the city of Galway, a constituency which he knew well. Not one penny had been spent by the Government in his constituency for the last three years, although they had had the honour of a visit from a Government inspector. The lighting of the harbour was complained of, and the harbour board undertook to correct it, but immediately an order was given by the Local Government Board telling them that they must not change the lighting of the harbour. Afterwards the Local Government Board sent an inspector to visit the harbour, and he came upon a glorious day when things were calm. He came in the morning and went away in the afternoon, after examining the lights when they were not lit. That was all they did for his constituency in three years. They had been told that they must rely upon their own resources. Here was a poor section of the country right around the city, where the Land Act had done nothing for the people, and where it had not been put into operation. A woollen factory was started there by a few people, and it had turned out goods acknowledged to be the finest in the three kingdoms. The people themselves had also established a brush factory, but the very things which the Government could have done to assist the people there were just the things which had not been done. In the face of these facts he would not say that the remarks of the hon. Member for North Antrim were insolent, and he would not say what they were. He thought he had made out his case that it was necessary that a dredger should be sent to the harbour of Galway as soon as possible. He had received Answers upon this question from the Attorney-General and from the late Chief Secretary, but he should continue to press this matter session after session in the hope that in the near future they would have someone sitting on the Treasury Bench representing the Government who would listen to their representations, and would not give them so many unfulfilled promises.

MR. CLANCY (Dublin County, N.) said this was really too serious a subject to be treated in the way in which it had been treated by the hon. Member for North Antrim. He assured hon. Members opposite that the Pope had nothing to do with their actions upon these questions, for he knew nothing about dredgers either on the east or the west coast of Ireland, and he doubted if he even knew where North Antrim was on the map. Therefore he begged hon. Members opposite to be serious in this matter, when they were dealing with questions which materially affected the welfare of Ireland. For his own part he had no objection to anything being done for any part of Ireland which urgently required the attention of the Government. He rejoiced when he heard of anything being done to a harbour in Down or Antrim, just as much as he did when anything was being done to the harbours on the west coast of Ireland. He had no objection to any harbour being improved. The hon. Member for North Antrim had quoted certain figures, but he had been informed that the greater part of the sum he had mentioned was granted in the shape of loans, which, of course, had to be repaid. Their great grievance was that these moneys had been entirely wasted, and had been spent against the wishes of the localities concerned, and entirely without any local control. He put it to the Chief Secretary whether it was not an outrage for the poor people to have to pay back these loans out of the rates when the money had been misspent on works which were absolutely useless. The boast of Irish Unionists was that this Parliament could do everything for Ireland that an Irish Parliament could do.

MR. WILLIAM MOORE: Hear, hear!

MR. CLANCY said that North, South, East, or West, there was not a part of the coast of Ireland which, if there had been an Irish Parliament for the last hundred years, would not have been the scene of a flourishing industry. Now they could not go to any of these small fishing places without seeing all around signs of decay. It was impossible for the people of Ireland to believe that this was not the result of neglect on the part of those who had assumed the responsibility for the government of Ireland against the will of the people. He did not want to dwell so much upon questions affecting his own constituency, although in Dublin they had many grievances of this kind. It was a great mistake to suppose that poverty existed only in the West of Ireland. He did not begrudge a single penny which had been devoted to the West of Ireland during the last twenty years, and he had voted for every penny which had been granted for that purpose. All that had been granted and a good deal more was wanted in order to put that part of the country into a satisfactory state. There were, however, all over Ireland, in what were called rich counties on the east coast, places which a native Legislature would assist by national grants which were now left to ruin and decay, because the present Government were more concerned with South Africa and affairs in the Far East than with Ireland. The Chief Secretary had been invited to go round Wexford and see for himself, but he had not so much faith in this practice. Everything was known, and what was wanted was expenditure out of Imperial funds for the general purposes of the country. The demand for the expenditure of public money in Ireland was justified not only by the condition of the country, but also by the scandalous over-taxation of which Ireland had been the victim for the last hundred years. The present Chief Secretary had commenced by being conciliatory, but that policy seemed to have had a bad effect upon the hon. Member for North Antrim. He hoped the new Chief Secretary would have a little courage, and beware of the fate of his predecessor.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): I do not think the House will be surprised if I say, after listening to the debate which has now gone on for two hours, that I rise to speak on behalf of the Irish Government in some little confusion of mind. In the first place, I have received a great deal of advice, and that advice has been of a somewhat conflicting character. At the same time, coming as I do fresh from the study of the administration of Ireland from the point of view of a person who is for the first time responsible for that government it has been not a little surprising to me to find that there is so widespread an impression that nothing has been done for Ireland, and that no advantages have been conferred upon Ireland by the work that has been done. We have had to-night many local cases referred to. It is obviously impossible for me to go into all of them. I am going to be impartial in my examination of the cases presented, and take two cases presented from different sides of the House. The Arklow Harbour and the Bann drainage are two very good illustrations of the difficulties in which the Irish Government find themselves. An attack has been made upon the Irish Board of Works with regard to the Arklow Harbour. I can only judge the Irish Board of Works by the information at my disposal, which naturally is official information. With regard to the Arklow Harbour I find that a great deal of money has been spent upon it. It has been sought to draw a distinction between the money found by the State in the form of loans and the money found by grants. I find in the case of the harbour the expenses defrayed by loans amounting to £23,500 and by free grants coming to £18,500, so that after all there is not a very great margin between the amount advanced by loan and the amount given in free grants. It has been said that the Board of Works muddled what was done there. My information is that the plans for the works which are now in existence were favourably reported on by two independent engineers whose Report was presented to Parliament; and that during the time the plans were under inspection a great many people in the localities approved them, and that they were also approved by two eminent practical engineers. If, therefore, it is true that the Board of Works failed in doing its duty, it took every precaution it was possible to adopt, and it does not appear to me that the charge of failure rests upon them. It was almost impossible to avoid some of the difficulties, which were local difficulties and which in the circumstances seemed to be scarcely preventable. The Board of Works have still got the condition of Arklow Harbour under consideration. I am informed that before I took office the Irish Government were considering whether out of the Irish Development Grant a sum of money could not be employed for the extension of the pier and the groyne. But, after all, I have shown that a considerable amount of money has been spent on Arklow

Harbour. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: "Wasted."] It is all very well to say that the money has been wasted, but every precaution was adopted that could be adopted.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: It was spent on plans which were disapproved of at the time by all the local opinion most likely to know.

MR. WALTER LONG: I have already stated that the plans were approved by a number of people in the locality and that every precaution was taken that could possibly be adopted in order to secure that the work should be properly done. If it is suggested that there has been want of care or energy on the part of those concerned in carrying out that work I am here to defend them, for it is my business to do so. If hon. Gentlemen were in my place they would defend men who were unable to defend themselves. I have also to say that as long as I am responsible for the government of Ireland I shall do my best to make myself acquainted with the facts on the spot. I shall not take the advice of the hon. Gentleman who spoke last when he said that personal visits are not necessary. I shall endeavour to ascertain the facts in regard to the past, and what it is possible to do in the future to secure better results.

The Bann drainage has not been referred to directly, but I think it was referred to indirectly in this way. Reference was made to many works which were under the consideration of the Irish Government and with regard to which there are difficulties. I am not responsible for that. Up to the present, of course, I have not had to take any active steps in connection with the matter. The difficulty in regard to the Bann drainage has, I find, been that a great deal of money has been spent under the direction of the Government and that the results are alleged to be not satisfactory. We are asked to spend more money on that and other works. Coming fresh to the study of Irish administration I find an attack made upon us that we have not spent enough money, and that the money already spent has not been properly spent. I think I shall be able to show that the money has been well spent, and that some excellent results have been obtained. Reference has been made to the policy of my Department and to permanent officials in the Department. I hope the House will believe that I did not accept the office I now hold with a light heart. I did not accept it without grave misgivings as to my own power to do justice to a position of such great importance and responsibility, and, therefore, what I say now I hope the House will believe is not due to any feeling of over self-confidence or presumption, but I do ask my hon. friends on my own side and hon. Gentlemen opposite to accept the view of the situation as it presents itself to me, and must present itself to anybody who has experience of the administration of the country. That view is that whatever the policy of the Irish Government may be, whether it is one approved or disapproved, the blame, at all events in the future, if blame there is, should be placed on the shoulders of one person—the Minister who is for the time being responsible. However competent permanent officials may be, they cannot share the responsibility for administration which attaches to the Minister alone. So long as I hold my position I shall consider it a duty and privilege to defend those officials who cannot speak for themselves, and I am willing to bear the blame for any failure in administration.

Let me say a word as to the facts in regard to the question raised in the Motion. The hon. Baronet who moved the Motion said that nothing had been done for the Irish fisheries, that the Government of Ireland had failed to find the necessary money, that there had been no development, and that the fisheries had been going backward. Is it really the case that they have been going backward? I say, as I have said before more than once, that I am bound to a very large extent to take, as a Minister always is compelled to take, a view which is of an official character, but it does not follow from that that it is unreliable or that a public official is inaccurate. If you take the figures of the Report of the Congested District Board for 1904 you will find the following particulars: In 1896, Aran spring mackerel half-boxes sold, fresh, were 6,350, and the total amount paid to fishermen, £1,627. In 1903 the half-boxes sold were 13,787; and the total amount paid, £3,813. The Cleggan fishery results in 1896 showed the half-boxes sold were 3,698; and the amount paid £753. In 1903 the figures were—half-boxes sold, 8,375; and the amount paid, £3,189. The Clifden fishery results in 1897 showed that the number of half-boxes sold, fresh, was 255, and the amount paid to fishermen £58. In 1903 the number of half-boxes sold, fresh, were 809; and the amount paid to fishermen £1,090. These figures show that there has been a steady increase in those branches of the fishing industry. The total quantity of fish marketed fresh in the several spring mackerel fisheries in 1903 was 13,787 half-boxes—an amount larger than has been marketed in any previous year, and the total value, £3,813, is higher than in any previous season. Under the scheme of the Congested Districts Board very excellent work was also done by the people on shore. They earned in handling fish alone between £300 and £400. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Why not extend the operations then?] Well, I think we are doing our best to extend the operations steadily, and I venture to say that this Report shows some very good results. For the Blacksod mackerel fishery the Board chartered a small steamer as in previous years for the conveyance of fish to the railway at Tonragee, Achill Sound, charging 1s. a box for the carriage of the fish, and 2d. for returned empties. During the week ended 28th May, 1903, the fishing at Downing's Bay, Donegal, was light but the quality of the fish was good, the prices varying from 63s. to 72s. per cran. If you go through the records of the Department you will find the same story told—a story of steady increase, and there has been a sustained and intelligent effort by the Department to make the fishing industry more prosperous.

Another branch of the work under the Congested Districts Board is what is known as the share system and on the Donegal coast fifty-nine boats were at work; the total earnings were £30,409; the amount which the Board retained as their share for the sinking fund and the cost of management, was £11,141, whilst £19,268 was paid away to the crews of the boats as their share of the earnings. This does not look as if there had been complete failure. Then, in addition to the very considerable expenditure on the construction of piers and other works, assistance to a very large amount has been granted by loans for the protection of fishing grounds, for boats, for fishing gear, and for the establishing of fish-curing and icing stations. Two lines of railway have been constructed in Donegal, one eighteen and a-half miles and the other forty-nine and a-half miles long. These lines were chiefly constructed in the interests of the fishing industry and the expenditure on them, out of funds provided by the Treasury, was something like £401,000. Taking the whole amount spent on Irish piers and harbours since 1850, we find that County Down had out of Imperial sources £24,770, and out of Irish sources £24,617; Donegal had £33,783 and £37,718 respectively; Mayo, £17,554 and £33,592; Sligo, £7,215 and £13,488; Cork, £18,891 and £39,269; and Clare, £9,438 and £23,709. Those are only some of the figures. The distinction which has been drawn between free grants and loans is very curiously marked, because the free grants, out of a total of £532,768, amounted to £440,472, and the loans only to £92,296. I do not think, therefore, that the charge against the Government has been sustained that money has not been found out of the free grants for piers and harbours.

Mr. CLANCY: The right hon. Gentleman should know that most of these grants were out of Irish grants. The whole of the sea fisheries fund was taken out of the Irish Church surplus.

Mr. WALTER LONG: What I have done is to give the expenditure on fishery piers and harbours alone. I have divided it into two heads—money from Imperial sources and money from Irish sources. [A Nationalist Member: It is not Imperial money at all.]

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE: The £223,000 is part of the church surplus.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Of the money derived under these two heads the amount from Imperial sources is £200,000, and there is in addition £332,159 which is derived from Irish sources, and that includes the sum which comes out of the Irish Church surplus. I do not imagine that money which is drawn from the Irish Church fund would be described as coming from an Imperial source. I am quite certain that the figures which I have given, amounting together to over £500,000, are divided between Imperial and Irish sources. In addition to that there is the sum of £100,000 available under the Marine Works Act of 1902. That Act, which was passed by the late Chief Secretary, was one of the results of a tour made by the right hon. Gentleman. Of this sum £86,800 has been already allocated towards works either in actual course of construction or works respecting which negotiations are at the present time in progress. This fact disproves the statement that nothing has been done. Further, both the Department of Agriculture and the Congested Districts Board have advanced loans freely in all suitable cases for the supply of boats, nets, and gear, and they are equipped with ample funds for the purpose. The Congested Districts Board have also provided boats on the share system by which the cost of the boats is paid for out of the earnings of the fisheries.

That is a brief account of what the Irish Government have done, and are doing at the present time, with regard to the development of the fisheries. It would have been more encouraging if one could have heard some small recognition of the work done. It is said that more money is wanted, and it is urged as a grievance against us that the people are expected to pay interest on the loans which have been made, and also to repay the loans. All I can say is that in many of the cases which have been mentioned to-night the harbours have been constructed out of public funds, while in other parts of the kingdom the cost of similar work has had to come out of the local rates. I say it is not encouraging to hear the statements which have been made to-night. I do not say it as a reproach, but I would point out that difficulty is created in that way. After all, this money can only be got if the taxpayers of this country are willing to provide it, and if they find it alleged that whatever is provided is devoted to useless purposes, so that the money is wasted, there is no good in coming to the Irish Government and asking them to press the Treasury for more funds. I think there should have been a franker and fairer recognition of the work the Irish Government has done in regard to fishery piers and harbours. If there has been failure to spend the money efficiently and to get the best results, we will endeavour to profit by experience and to avoid mistakes in future. It cannot be alleged that this country has not been generous in providing money, and I believe the facts and figures I have quoted show that that money has not been wasted as hon. Gentlemen from Ireland have contended. It has to a large extent been spent to the advantage of the country, and particularly in the localities in which the works have been carried out.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.) said he would not follow the right hon. Gentleman in what he had said regarding the money spent during the last fifty years in improving certain harbours. He rose for the purpose of calling attention to the little harbour of Kinvarra on the west coast in which his constituents took a deep interest. He had in the course of the past three or four years brought this matter under the notice of the late Chief Secretary and urged that something should be done to improve the harbour, which was in a disgraceful condition. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take steps to carry out the improvements which were necessary in order that the trade in that particular district might be properly dealt with.

And it being half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put that Question.

The House divided :—Ayes, 217 ; Noes, 172. (Division List No. 89.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt.Hon.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHn.GeraldW.(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Beach, Rt Hon. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bowles,Lt.-Col.H.F.(Middlesex
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Bull, William James

Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J.H.M.(DublinUniv.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C.W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A (Worc.
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Collings, Rt Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, C. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Davies, Sir H. D. (Chatham
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir J. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir Wm. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. A. Edward
Fergusson, Rt.Hon.SirJ.(Man'r
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay,Sir R.B.(Inv'rn'ssB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
Fitzroy, Hon. E. Algernnon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Galloway, William Johnson
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Gordon,HnJ.E.(ElginandNairn
Gordon,Maj.Evans(T'rH'mlets)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst,Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton,Marq.of(L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N.W.)
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hermon-Hodge, Sir R. T.
Hope,J.F.(Sheffield,Brightside)
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Hozier, Hon. J. H. Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jameson, Major J. Eustace
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. A. Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway,RtHon.SirJohnH.
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson, J. G. (Yorks. N.R.)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lees, Sir E. (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, F. N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
Maconochie, A. W.
M‘Calmont, Colonel James
M‘Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh W.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell,Rt.HnSirHE.(Wigt'n
Maxwell,WJ.H(Dumfriesshire)
Montagu,Hn.J. Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Mount, William Arthur
Mowbray, Sir Robert Gray C.
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis Robert
Pym, C. Guy
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Rasch, Sir Frederic Carne
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Robinson, Brooke
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Rothschild, Hon. L. Walter
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, C. Hilton (Lincoln)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, A. H. (Hertford, East)
Smith,H.C.(North'mb.Tyn'side
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stanley, Rt.Hon. Lord (Lancs.)
Stewart,SirMarkJ.M‘Taggart
Stroyan, John
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chicester)
Talbot,RtHn.JG. (Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirCEH(Sheffield)
Walker, Col. William Hall
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E(Taunton)
Welby,Sir C. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton,Rt.Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley,H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley(York,E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith,RtHn.H Henry
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard

Benn, John Williams
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carvill, Patrick Geo. Hamilton
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clancy, John Joseph
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, R. Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crooks, William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Devlin, C. Ramsay (Galway)
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, C. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, CaptEC(S.Andrw's Bghs)
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, A. (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis, J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles
Henderson, A. (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, V. P. (Cavan, W.)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir C. Benjamin
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, RtHon. John(Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Richards, T. (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, H L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, Charles E.
Seely, Maj. J. E. B. (Isle of Wight)
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, RtHn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, D. A. (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, E. (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. C. (Orkney)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, A. W. (N. Dorset)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Thomas Esmonde and Mr. Patrick O'Brien.

Bill read a second time, and committed for To-morrow.

NEW BILL.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (FEEDING OF CHILDREN).

Bill to make provision for the feeding of Children in Public Elementary Schools, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Claude Hay, Mr. James Hope, Dr. Macnamara, Sir Albert Rollit, Sir Ernest Flower, Mr. Coghill, and Mr. Forde Ridley.

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION (FEEDING OF CHILDREN) BILL.

"To make provision for the feeding of Children in Public Elementary Schools," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, and to be printed. [Bill 126.]

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "setting forth the names, age, length of service, and place of education, of each salaried official in the various Government Departments in Ireland.—(*Mr. MacVeagh.*)

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said he wished to draw attention to the order of Questions on the Paper of the House, which had caused great inconvenience to hon. Members during the last fortnight or three weeks. A large number of Questions, of which notice had been given to the Secretary of State for War, had been so placed in the order list of Questions as to shut out an Answer being given to them across the floor of the House, and the Answers were delayed until the following day when they appeared in the Order Paper. That had caused considerable inconvenience more than once when the Army Votes were under discussion. The one Question to which he wished to direct attention was of considerable interest to those hon. Members who were looking forward with apprehension or pleasure, as the case might be, to the statement which was to be made next day by the Secretary of State for War. He begged to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office what had been the total cost of the barracks built under the Army Corps scheme on Salisbury Plain and in other districts; whether those barracks would be utilised under the present scheme; and, if not, whether building operations had been suspended.

*MR. SPEAKER: Was this Question on the Paper for to-day?

MR. RUNCIMAN: It was on the Paper for to-day, but was not reached.

*MR. SPEAKER: Then it cannot be asked now. The Standing Order provides that the answer will appear in the Order Paper to-morrow.

MR. RUNCIMAN said he would be quite content for the time to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if any arrangement could be made to prevent a repetition of what he had complained of. This was not the first time that such an occurrence had taken place. It would be in the recollection of the House that the same thing had happened last session and the early part of this session, when important Colonial Office Questions were to be discussed. He understood that the order in which Questions were placed on the Paper was arranged very largely for the convenience of Ministers. He did not wish to interfere with that convenience; but if it could be arranged that such Questions as he had referred to could be placed earlier in the list so as to admit of an oral Answer being given across the floor of the House it would be a great convenience to those on that side of the House.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said that the First Lord of the Treasury was the very last man in the world to whom he would like to give the disposition of the Questions or their arrangement. He had always understood that Mr. Speaker himself had formerly arranged the order of the Questions at his discretion; and he would be very sorry if that discretion were left to the First Lord of the Treasury from his knowledge of the way in which that right hon. Gentleman had manipulated the rules of the House. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Order"] He recollected very perfectly that during the debates on the new rules it was suggested first of all that the Prime Minister should arrange the list of Questions, but that was met with a storm of opposition Then it was suggested that it should be left to the Clerks at the Table, but that was repudiated; and lastly it was agreed that it should be left in the hands of Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker had intervened many a time to say that the time given to Questions should be economised to the best interests of hon. Members. He recollected Mr. Speaker intervening when Black Rod appeared in the House during Question time, thus encroaching on the rights of hon. Members. Then an arrangement was formally made to suit the convenience of the First Lord of the Treasury, who sailed into the House at the end of Questions and in many cases escaped answering any Questions at all.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I object to the word "escaped." I like Questions.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL said that no priest of the Elysian mysteries ever better concealed any knowledge that he possessed than the right hon. Gentleman. With great respect he held that Mr. Speaker, with his usual consideration in reference to safeguarding the privileges of hon. Members, arranged of late that Questions addressed to the First Lord should be put on to the list between the numbers forty and fifty. That often threw back Questions addressed to the Colonial Secretary, who in that way avoided many inconvenient interrogatories. As to the War Secretary, he was perpetually up in the clouds or under a cloud; and the system prevented him answering some of the awkward Questions. The first twenty Questions on the list were frequently of no general interest. Two Questions had been put down starred, with elaborate Answers as to whether the public should be admitted between three and four to Hampton Court, while on the same day the War Secretary was not allowed to answer some Questions on Army contracts. Under the new rules, the First Lord evaded answering Questions. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Order, order!"] Well, the First Lord had provided a very convenient method of escaping answering Questions for himself and his colleagues.

*MR. SPEAKER: It now being twelve o'clock, the Motion has lapsed.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: May I put it again?

*MR. SPEAKER: There is no business left on the Paper and the House now stands adjourned.

Adjourned at one minute after Twelve o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 28th March, 1905.

EARL OF KENMARE.

Report made from the Lord Chancellor that the right of Valentine Charles, Earl of Kenmare, in the Peerage of Ireland, to vote at the election of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to the satisfaction of the Lord Chancellor; read, and ordered to lie on the Table.

SAT FIRST.

The Lord Wynford sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

West Cumberland Electric Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill [H.L.]. Reported, without Amendment.

Hastings Harbour Bill [H.L.]. The King's consent signified; and Bill reported, with Amendments.

Metropolitan Railway Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Hessle Gas Bill [H.L.]. Reported, with Amendments.

Clacton Improvement Bill [H.L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The orders made on the 21st of February last and the 13th instant, discharged, and Bill committed.

Holy Trinity Portsea Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª, and passed, and sent to the Commons.

Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham, and Rochester Water Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS AND DEATHS, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).

Fiftieth Annual Report of the Registrar-General in Scotland of the marriages, births, and deaths registered for the year 1904; and Fortieth Annual Report on Vaccination.

CROFTER HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS, 1886–87.

Report by the Crofters' Commission, for the year ended December 31st, 1904.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

No. 3331. Netherlands (Amsterdam).

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (ENGLAND AND WALES).

General abstract of marriages, births, and deaths registered in England and Wales in the year 1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

Prevention of Corruption Bill [H.L.]; Married Women's Property Act (1882) Amendment Bill [H.L.]; Prize Courts Bill [H.L.]; Naval Prize Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Standing Committee without Amendment; and to be read 3ª on Thursday next.

Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [H.L.]. Read 3ª (according to order); Amendments (Privilege) made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

THE AFFAIRS OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

*The Earl of LYTTON, who had given notice "To call attention to the affairs of South-Eastern Europe, and to move for Papers," said: My Lords, the Motion which I have placed on the Order Paper this afternoon is intended to raise a discussion, and, I hope, to elicit some information, upon the state of affairs in Macedonia and the present phase of what is known as the Near Eastern question. This question, like the poor, is always with us, and I cannot help thinking that in many respects our attitude towards it is not altogether unlike our attitude towards the poor. Generally, we are all very sorry that such things should be. We regret infinitely the unfortunate state of affairs, but on the whole we are resigned to the attitude that no remedy can possibly be found, and this apparent hopelessness of a solution has no doubt led, to a certain extent, to a modification of the interest of the country in the question. But, my Lords, if it be true that the interest in this department of our foreign policy is not as great to-day as it has been on other occasions, if it be true that a certain amount of apathy has settled on public opinion with regard to this part of the world, that does not reduce in any sense our obligations and our responsibilities there, and in spite of those circumstances our duty, I think, remains as clear as ever. Indeed, there is something to be thankful for in the fact that we can now discuss the whole question, review the whole position, without the pressure of sentiment, and without the disturbing influence of popular clamour.

I fully realise the difficulties in which any Foreign Minister is placed who is called upon to deal with a matter of this kind, and the last thing I desire to do this afternoon is to raise any sort of reproach against the noble Marquess who conducts our foreign affairs, as I think all your Lordships will admit, with such conspicuous ability. I feel that if this question had been left entirely in his hands it would have been settled by now—settled, too, in a manner not less effectively, if perhaps less drastically, than a British Admiral—Admiral Noel—once settled the affairs of Crete. But I realise his difficulties. I have no desire to add to them in any way, and the only reason I have placed this Motion on the Paper is to give the noble Marquess an opportunity of making it perfectly plain that, so far as he is concerned, and so far as the Government of this country is concerned, there has been no going back upon the position we have taken up all along on this question; that there is no justification for the opinion, which I am sorry to say is held in some quarters and in other countries, that the British Government is losing heart, and really cares very little about what is happening in Macedonia. I will not ask the noble Marquess for one of those general assurances which it is so easy to give when you are pressed for them in Parliament, but I do appeal to him to state this afternoon, as clearly as his responsible position will allow, that the voice of this country is still being raised in the counsels of Europe in favour of peace, justice, and administrative reform.

It is within your Lordships' recollection that when this subject was discussed last year on the Motion of my noble friend Lord Newton, a good deal was said about the mandate which had been given to Austria and Russia and the reforms which these two Powers had undertaken to carry out. A good deal of scepticism was expressed on that occasion as to the adequacy of these reforms, but the noble Marquess assured us that if, in the course of time, they should prove to be insufficient, he reserved to himself the right on a future occasion of putting forward more far-reaching proposals. Another year has gone by and we have an even better opportunity of judging the effect of the policy of the mandate. It cannot be doubted that on the whole, considering the time it has been in operation, it has failed to bring about any real amelioration of the state of affairs in Macedonia. At any rate, no one whose knowledge is derived solely from Blue-books and the public Press can point to any evidence that we are really better off to-day than we were twelve months ago, whilst the fact that these twelve months have gone by and so little has been done must in itself be an aggravation of the forces which make for unrest. It is perfectly true that some progress has been made with the reorganisation of the *gendarmerie*, and it is at least satisfactory to learn that the greatest zeal has been shown and the most efficient work done by that portion which is under the command of Colonel Fairholme and other British officers; but in everything else there has, I am sorry to say, been the usual delay, the usual confusion, the usual lukewarmness on the part of the Powers, and, worse than all, the usual disposition of the Turkish authorities to make use of disputes between the rival sections of Christian communities to stir up strife rather than maintain peace.

The vilayet of Adrianople is still excluded from the sphere of reform altogether. The original Austro-Russian proposals, which we were told constituted the irreducible minimum, have been curtailed, and are not yet, so far as we can judge from public information, fully in operation. It is evident, therefore, that the policy of the mandate has failed either to prevent bloodshed, to restore order, or to secure reform; and in corroboration of this statement I can quote a despatch from the noble Marquess. I find in the last Blue-book available on this subject that in May of last year the noble Marquess, in answer to Count Lamsdorf, who had found fault with the noble Marquess for, as he thought, the needlessly pessimistic language which he had used, replied as follows—

> "I told his Excellency that I had been challenged to produce any evidence tending to show an actual improvement in the condition of the country, and that no one had been able to supply me with any such evidence."

Up to the end of this Blue-book no such evidence is forthcoming. Perhaps the noble Marquess has been able to find evidence between the date on which this Blue-book ends and the present. If that is so, doubtless we shall hear it to-day; but from the period at which this Blue-book ends to the present day nothing has come to the knowledge of the public which will lead them to differ from the opinion then expressed by the noble Marquess.

It is true that the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Lord Percy, speaking in another place, denied that this Austro-Russian reform scheme could be said to have failed, but the noble Earl went on, in the very next breath, to say that the only object of that scheme of reform was to maintain the *status quo*. What are we to think of any scheme of reform the object of which is to maintain the *status quo*? I cannot conceive a greater condemnation of a scheme of reform than to say that its only object is to keep things exactly as they are, and if that was the object of the Mürzsteg scheme, then I think we can agree with the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that it has abundantly succeeded in its object. There is another circumstance to which some reference must be made, which still further reduces any chance of success which this scheme may once have had. I refer to the internal condition of Russia and the events which have taken place in St. Petersburg and other large towns in that country during the last few months. I am quite aware that this is rather a delicate matter, and I hope I shall say nothing which can in any way offend the susceptibilities of that great Power for whose present misfortunes at home and abroad, it is impossible not to feel a certain measure of sympathy. But can anyone in all seriousness look to Russia at this moment as a champion of the oppressed, as a genuine and sincere opponent of corrupt, and tyrannical government? What weight could that country have in demanding reforms? What title could it have to protest against massacre and disorder? I cannot help thinking that any Note which Russia could submit to the Porte with regard to the internal condition of Macedonia would lay her open to a retort which is too obvious for me to put into words. While Russia is at this moment in the throes of a great domestic upheaval, Austria is occupied with a situation in Hungary, the difficulties of which are likely to increase rather than diminish with time.

My reference to these events is not merely gratuitous, for the internal preoccupations of these two Empires must have an important bearing on this question. It is true, no doubt, to say that the chief reasons for European intervention in that part of the world are of a selfish character. Here are troubled waters in which every Power must fish lest any one should get more than its share, and since Austria and Russia are the immediate neighbours of the Turk and are, therefore, more nearly affected by the disturbances in that country, they have been told off nominally to secure reforms in the name of the other Powers, but, in fact, to keep a jealous watch over each other. But, above and beyond the question of mere interest, and apart altogether from the ambitions of any individual State, there is a cause which is common to all the Powers alike, there is a justification for intervention which is shared by every one of them, and that is the maintenance of international obligations. The rule of the Turk is altogether an anomaly in civilised Europe, and the misgovernment, followed by insurrection, which is the chronic state of affairs in most of the Turkish Provinces, is a perpetual menace to the peace of Europe. The result has been that from time to time the resentment of the other European Powers has found vent in protests and expostulations, which, in their turn, have been followed by verbal and even written assurance from the Sultan that real reforms will be carried out. But time goes on, and these reforms never get beyond the stage of promise, and, I think, it is true to say that this spectacle of treaties unfulfilled, of pledges broken, of protests ignored, of corruption and injustice in place of religious tolerance and equitable administration which have been so solemnly promised, is one which it is becoming increasingly difficult for Europe to regard with composure.

To secure real reform in the Turkish dominions is the main if not the only, object of the three Western Powers, and I think I may go so far as to say that their very strength depends upon the fact that they have no other end to serve. But can Austria and Russia, who are at this moment occupied with internal complications of their own, internal complications of a very serious character, be expected to take the same interest in the internal situation in Macedonia? It is perfectly true that they are constantly referred to as the "interested Powers," and I have no doubt that they can be counted upon to show sufficient zeal to maintain their own interests, but those interests are altogether special and peculiar to themselves; and the interests which we share in common with them, the interests which all Europe has in common, are just those to which they may be counted upon to show the greatest measure of indifference. The proof of my contention is to be found in the actual history of what has taken place in the last two years. In the sphere of operations carried out by the *gendarmerie*, it has been the representatives of the disinterested and not of the interested Powers, who have done the most efficient work; the most far-reaching and important proposals of reform have been put forward not by the statesmen of Austria and Russia, but by the Foreign Minister of this country. Is it surprising, therefore, that under these circumstances those, in whatever country they may find themselves, who really care profoundly about the question, should be looking to the noble Marquess to see what is to be the next step.

The Earl of Lytton

In his speech on the Address the noble Marquess told us that he had not forgotten and had not allowed other nations to forget the statement he made in this House with regard to the further proposals which he was prepared to put forward if the present scheme should prove a failure. Now it appears from a cutting which I have here from the *Standard* that the noble Marquess has actually within the last few months made fresh proposals. Naturally this information is not of a very reliable kind, but it is all that I have to go upon, and I submit it, therefore, with diffidence to your Lordships. I find that according to this report, on January 11th last the noble Marquess submitted fresh proposals to the French Ambassador for the establishment of a European Commission to supervise the general administration of Macedonia. I would like to ask the noble Marquess if he can give us this afternoon any further information with regard to these proposals, if he can tell us whether they have been abandoned permanently, or whether they are only temporarily in abeyance pending the carrying out of the new financial proposals since put forward by the two Eastern Empires. The mandate which has been given to Austria and Russia ends in 1905. I should like to ask the noble Marquess whether the proposals which he made to the French Government in January are likely to supersede the policy of the mandate, and whether Great Britain will take any steps, between now and October of this year, to get representation for the other Powers of Europe, including this country.

But since it is evident that these proposals have been abandoned for the moment, the most important consideration is the new proposal which has been put forward by Austria and Russia. This proposal was referred to by the noble Marquess in his speech on the Address as going further than anything which they had yet proposed. Here, again, we have to rely entirely on statements contained in the Press, and I find, in a quotation from *The Times* of March 10th, that this proposal is intended to set up financial reform in Macedonia.

It is abundantly clear how important the question of finance must be, because at the present time most of the taxes in the Turkish dominions are very irregularly raised and often with great oppression. The salaries of the officials are unpaid, with the result that they are obliged to pay themselves by extorting money out of the population over whom they are called to rule, and therefore the confusion, disorder, and insurrection in that part of the world is largely to be attributed to the inadequacy and the insufficiency of the financial arrangements.

It appears now, if my information is correct, that in future the Ottoman Bank is to be set up as a sort of receiver-general and paymaster-general; that each of the three vilayets, together with the smaller districts included within their area, is to have a separate budget drawn up by its respective Vali; that these are to be submitted to and agreed to by the Ottoman Bank, by Hilmi Pasha, the Inspector-General, and by the interested Powers—and presumably by "interested" is meant Austria and Russia —and from them a common Macedonian Budget is to be prepared; that no other expenditure is to be sanctioned; that for purposes of administration the Ottoman Bank is to appoint six financial inspectors, whose salaries and expenses are to be paid by the vilayets, and that the Ottoman Bank is to issue monthly statements of accounts. These proposals have apparently been met with a counter proposal from the Turkish Government, namely, that it should raise the Customs duties from 8 to 11 per cent. *ad valorem* on imported goods.

Now, my Lords, there are several very disquieting features in this new financial reform scheme. In the first place, the Ottoman Bank, which has hitherto been altogether a non-political body, is to be set up to carry out large powers of an administrative kind, and apparently, beyond the control exercised by the bank, no other control is to be established over expenditure. Then, if this new Turkish proposal is accepted, it is this country which will suffer most from the raising of the Customs duties, because at this moment Great Britain has 60 per cent. of the trade with Turkey. It is proposed that the additional revenue so received shall be applied for the purpose of reform, but of this we have no guarantee whatever, and it appears that Austria and Russia at this moment are co-operating with Turkey in order to maintain the *status quo* at our expense. One can well understand the complaint of the Turkish Government that these reforms are expensive, and that she is obliged to keep a large force in the field so long as she is threatened with hostilities either from without or from within; but I would like to point out to your Lordships that to remove that burden unconditionally would be to remove altogether the last hope of carrying out reforms. If we may judge from his speeches and from published reports, the noble Marquess has been working all along in favour of the establishment of some European control of administration generally, but to accept this latest proposal of Turkey would be to abandon that position and to enable others to gain while we ourselves are obliged to suffer. I trust that the noble Marquess will give us some information with regard to these proposals this afternoon. I cannot conceive that this country will ever be a party to carrying out such a disastrous scheme. It only shows, if my information is correct, how we are made to suffer by not being ourselves represented, and I would like to take this opportunity of urging on the noble Marquess the importance of securing for this country, in any financial scheme which is undertaken, some representation, because in finance, at any rate, if in nothing else, we have a very substantial interest.

To obtain information on these two points has been one of the objects I have had in putting this Motion on the Paper. My other object has been to concentrate attention on the position of this country with regard to this question. We have interests, it is true, commercial, financial, and diplomatic, in that part of the world, but we have, in addition, obligations and responsibilities which we share in common with the other signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. All these are, no doubt, valid grounds for intervention in Macedonia. I do not dwell upon them because I do not feel it is incumbent upon me to make out a case for intervention. If there were not adequate reasons the Government would not have intervened as it has done in the past and as it is doing to-day. But I wish at the same time to concede that there are those who think that we have no grounds for intervention in that part of the world. There are some who think we have no more reason to interfere in Macedonia than we have in Persia or in Afghanistan, and though I have no doubt a good case could be made out for non-intervention, just as good a case could be made out for intervention, I wish to emphasise this point, that for intervening half-heartedly and vacillating between the two policies no case can be made out. That is a course in support of which no argument can be adduced and which must in the end damage the prestige of the country which adopts it. If we recognise these obligations, let us take whatever action is required in order to fulfil them, but let that action be firm, consistent, and straightforward. To say one day that we intend to insist upon important reforms, and then the next day to imply that all reform is impossible; to ask much and expect little; to induce the insurgents on one occasion to remain quiet by promises of action, and then subsequently to drive them into hostilities by months of inaction—all this is to court failure and to forfeit the confidence of those with whom we are trying to co-operate.

I do not suggest that the noble Marquess has ever wavered in his personal opinions on this subject, but, unfortunately, there have been utterances in support of the Government policy in other places and on other occasions which are not altogether so reassuring. If we desire to induce France and Italy to join with us in securing reforms, we should afford them no opportunity of doubting our sincerity, and I think I may say that one of the most distressing features of this whole question is the atmosphere of distrust which always surrounds those who take part in it. I hope the noble Marquess will clear up any doubts which may exist with regard to the attitude of this country at any rate. I lay myself open, no doubt, to the question, do you then desire that this country should take isolated action? The Prime Minister, in another place, said—

> "Are we, because we think a particular reform might be better, because we think if we were left to ourselves we might devise some scheme more appropriate and more thorough-going—are we, therefore, to separate ourselves from the European Concert?"

To that question I answer emphatically, No! But surely there is another course by which we can influence the final solution far better than by withdrawing from the field, and that is by remaining in the field and firmly and consistently pressing our demands. It is not for "an insane policy of philanthropic adventure," as the Prime Minister called it, that I plead. It is rather that within the Concert of Europe we should be known all along to favour the real settlement of the Macedonian question on permanent lines; that we should insist unremittingly upon some form of European control of justice, administration, and finance; that we should leave no room for doubt as to our action, and that while we should co-operate heartily with other countries in securing any step in the direction we desire to go, we should not express ourselves as satisfied with anything which fell short of the ends we had in view. If without vacillation we insist firmly upon these lines, we shall secure the confidence of those with whom we are working from the first, and I doubt not we shall secure their co-operation in the end.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for Papers relating to the affairs of South-Eastern Europe."—(*The Earl of Lytton.*)

Lord NEWTON: My Lords, nobody who has had sufficient patience to listen to these frequent discussions on the subject of Macedonia, some of which have been initiated by myself and some by other unofficial persons who sit on this side of the House, can fail to have been struck by the great similarity—I might say monotony—which characterises them. A discussion on this particular subject is usually started, as I have said, by someone who sits on this side of the House. It is continued by unofficial persons; there is generally somebody on the Front Opposition Bench who takes the opportunity of urging the Foreign Minister to more energetic action, and the debate invariably concludes with a statement, somewhat apologetic in its nature, by the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, deprecating undue haste, urging the virtue of patience, and pleading in mitigation that he has an exceptionally hard task to perform, in which, I am sure, everybody will concur. The monotony of our debates is characteristic of the monotony of the situation in Macedonia. In spite of Blue-books, Yellow-books, and White-books, in spite of Circulars, Manifestoes, Notes—in short, in spite of all the paraphernalia of diplomacy, the broad fact remains that the condition of Macedonia is exactly what it was a year ago when I happened myself to be in that country.

There is the same amount of unrest; there is the same insecurity; there are still the same hordes of unpaid and semi-disciplined soldiers in the country quartered on the population; there is the same danger of outbreak, weather permitting, and there are the same massacres constantly perpetrated by the rival Christian revolutionary bands. I frequently observe that when one Christian band massacres another it is described as a regrettable incident; if Mussulmans are massacred by Christians it is usually described as an act of righteous retribution; but if Christians are massacred by Turks, the incident is raised to a full-blown atrocity. Nearly everybody is agreed as to the actual condition of things in this part of the world, and difference of opinion only manifests itself when we begin to trace responsibility. Various views prevail in this country as to the degree of responsibility. There are certain eccentric persons who appear to believe that the existing state of things is partly our own fault. That is a delusion which cannot be too frequently exposed. There appear to be a number of people in this country who believe that we are under some peculair liability to the inhabitants of this part of the globe in consequence of the Treaty of Berlin. It cannot be pointed out sufficiently frequently that our liability under that treaty is precisely the same as the liability of any other Power. I dismiss this theory at once.

Then there is the theory of the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who entertains the view, which, at all events, does credit to his courage, that the real reason why no progress has been made is on account of the action of the revolutionary bands; and there is the third view, which is more generally entertained, that the whole fault is due to the Turkish Government itself. I am no admirer of the Turkish Government, but I always feel that that is a somewhat unreasonable attitude to take up. Let anybody ask himself what reforms really mean when you are dealing with the Turkish Government. The Turkish Government, as we all know, is quite incapable of introducing a state of things which approaches what we are pleased to call reform in this country. Reforms in Turkey really mean that the Turkish Government, as a Government, is to be obliterated, and it stands to reason that you cannot expect a Government to work whole-heartedly for its own extinction. But the Turks can always plead this in excuse. They can say, with a certain amount of truth, that if they had been left to deal with this question alone they would have put things right before long. Everybody knows how they would have done it. They would have made war upon Bulgaria; they would, presumably, by force of numbers, have crushed that country, and they would have devoted themselves to those measures of repression with which we are painfully familiar; but they may say with justice that Europe has insisted that the amelioration of the state of things in Macedonia is to be brought about, not by repression, but by administrative measures.

As an administrative measure, let me take one example, which is supposed to be the one solitary success which has so far been the outcome of the Mürzsteg programme—I refer to the European *gendarmerie*. What is a force of *gendarmerie* for? It is organised and constituted to maintain order in time of peace. It would be a very strong assertion to maintain that Macedonia enjoys peace at all in the usual sense of the word, and it certainly does not enjoy peace while the revolutionary bands are in existence. It is wrong to think, as some people do, that because a *gendarmerie* exists which is trained and organised according to European methods, that therefore these outrages have come to an end. Such a thing as putting an end to these revolutionary outrages is entirely beyond their power. The whole force of *gendarmerie* trained by Europeans does not amount to more than 3,000 or 4,000 men all told, and that is a force obviously designed to maintain order in time of peace. In support of my assertion that the *gendarmerie* is perfectly incapable of suppressing these outrages, I may point out that only two years ago it took something like 300,000 Turkish troops to put down insurrection in that country. So much for Turkish responsibility.

I have put forward the three theories of responsibility which usually hold good in this country. I may take a very exceptional view, but to my mind the chief responsibility for the present condition of things does not rest with the Turks. Neither is it due to the other causes I have enumerated. It is directly due to the fact that in a moment of international aberration the task of restoring order there was entrusted to Austria and Russia. You might just as well hand over the property of an imbecile or a person of weak mind to two persons who were going to benefit by his death, and then expect that his property would be beneficially administered. I do not think that it is ever sufficiently realised in this country that it is neither the object, nor the wish, nor the interest, of either of these two Powers that order and tranquility should prevail in the Balkan Peninsula. Austria and Russia have always in the past shown themselves delighted to profit by any opportunity for aggrandising themselves at the expense of the Turks, but never in my recollection, or in the recollection of anybody else, have they shown the smallest anxiety to promote good government or amelioration of any kind in the dominions of the Sultan. I do not blame them in the least. Why should they?

These two Powers some years ago entered into an amicable arrangement for the purpose of partitioning the Balkan Peninsula whenever a favourable opportunity arose. So far as we know, that agreement is still in existence, and the Mürzsteg programme is merely a prolongation of the *status quo*; in other words it is a prolongation of the present state of things, because that prolongation will enable them at some future date to intervene when it suits their convenience. There is a belief in this country that the Christians of Macedonia lead so miserable an existence that they would gladly welcome any change of government. I should like to point out that the case of the Christians in the Balkan Peninsula and in Macedonia itself is not only a case of oppression and misgovernment, but one of rival races who aspire, and legitimately aspire, to eventually inherit territory which now forms part of the Turkish Empire, and I will undertake to say that if anybody chose to ask any educated Greek or Bulgarian in Macedonia as to whether he would prefer to be transferred to Austrian or Russian territory, or to become a subject of one of those two Powers, he would at once say he did not desire anything of the sort. He would infinitely prefer to remain under Turkish rule.

This may sound a somewhat startling announcement, but I will go so far as to say that I believe we may actually see Turks and Bulgarians fighting side by side against intervention by Austria; and, after all, when you come to think of it, this frame of mind is not so ridiculous as it may at first appear. We all realise that the Turkish Empire must come to an end some day. Personally, I am in no hurry to see it come to an end; but what these people argue to themselves is this, that when the Turkish Empire comes to an end, as they know it must do some day, then will be their chance. They may then become the possessors of the territory in which they have so long lived and to which they have a just claim, but if they are handed over to Russia or Austria the position will be different. They know that the moment Austria or Russia sets foot in the country, the moment that their country is so occupied, all their hopes of independent existence are at an end. A responsible Bulgarian official once remarked to me—

> "We have seen the Russians in the Balkan Peninsula several times already, but does anybody in his senses believe that if the Russians are again found in the Balkan Peninsula they will not remain there permanently."

I should like to say one word with regard to a disposition which I have observed in some quarters to blame the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for not having shown greater energy. I do not think one could exaggerate the difficulty of the position which is occupied by the noble Marquess. He has, on the one side, to satisfy sentiment in this country, because there are people here who really and honestly do sympathise with the Christian races in the Near East. He has to endeavour to satisfy the sentiment of this country by urging reforms which are not only hateful to the Turks themselves, but are almost equally distasteful to Austrians and Russians, and possibly to Germans. On the other hand, the noble Marquess is apparently unable to count on any substantial assistance from the Western Powers. A good deal of sympathy is shown by the Western Powers, but I cannot say that I observe any concrete evidence of action. I believe there are a certain number of private individuals, both in Italy and France, who sympathise with the views entertained by my noble friend and by those who act with him in this country, but, as a matter of fact, this is the only country, as far as I am aware, in which sentiment plays any real part in the direction of foreign policy, and I repeat that I see no evidence that the Western Powers are disposed to give any substantial assistance to the noble Marquess.

I am afraid that the Western Powers are not likely to modify their attitude in consequence of any opinions I may personally express, but, at the same time, I venture to think that the interests of this country, the interests of France, and the interests of Italy, are not purely sentimental interests. I do not think it requires much intelligence to realise that it cannot be in our interests, or in the interests of France, and it certainly cannot be in the interests of Italy, either that Austrians or Russians should obtain a permanent foothold in the Balkan Peninsula, or that either of those Powers should establish themselves in the Levant. I maintain that as long as the present condition of things lasts the danger is always in existence, although I know perfectly well that the noble Marquess will not admit anything of the kind. Therefore, for my part, not for sentimental reasons but for material reasons, I venture to hope that we shall elicit a statement from the noble Marquess this afternoon that some effort is going to be made to put an end to the undue predominance which is now exercised by the Governments of Austria and Russia in the Balkan Peninsula, and to recover the collective and undivided control of that situation by Europe which ought never to have been abandoned.

*THE LORD BISHOP OF ROCHESTER: My Lords, I think I should have taken leave anyhow to say a few words on this important question. But I do so the more because of the inevitable absence of the most rev. Primate, who wished me to express his regret.

It seems to me that there are two ends, as it were, at which one might take up this subject. One is the condition of the population. The noble Lord who has just sat down has spoken of the monotony of these debates. They are monotonous, but there is more serious monotony in the sufferings of these people. This state of things continues from month to month and from year to year. We have had no attempt this evening, and I shall make no attempt, to stir the feelings of the House by any recital of the things that have happened. Those incidents have not been given great prominence to of late in the public Press, but we know perfectly well that that does not mean that the condition of the population is other than one of real misery. We know the expedient which has been adopted for the preservation of order by the Turkish Government—that of declaring martial law and of quartering Turkish soldiery upon the villagers. We learn that similar armed occupation is organised on the side of the Revolutionary Committees and that it not seldom happens that the same population are really subject to threat and counter threat. Then we get an incident like we had recently at Kuklish, which gives us an insight into the kind of thing which may happen.

That is the condition under which these people actually live, but there is to be added the very painful element of apprehension. There is very little prospect of the bettering of their existence. The worsening of it by the letting loose of a war upon them is, they must feel, a very possible contingency indeed. And what, my Lords, does the diplomacy of Europe hold out to them? We are told, if I understand rightly, that we ought not to be too much disturbed on this matter because there is a scheme of financial reform in progress from which good results may be anticipated. We are told by the best students of political phenomena that the economy of a nation is the fundamental factor affecting its life. That perhaps is so. It may be that financial reform is the thing which in one sense is most needed by these unhappy provinces. But I would ask whether it is in the least likely that we can attach much hope to financial reform at this time of day, unaccompanied by other measures, and the thorough administrative reorganisation which the Under-Secretary has told us is needful. The long and short of it is that these people are living, and have every prospect of living, under what my noble friend the noble Marquess so sympathetically described as "chronic and grievous misgovernment that provokes and leads to outrage."

I say you might take the matter up from that end, but I own I am somewhat disposed to take it up from the other end. The other end is the self-respect of this country. There are, of course, many questions on which we differ. We differ, for instance, about the primary or singular responsibility of England, and about the relation between the events of 1878 and that responsibility. I myself, I frankly own, am not convinced at all that this country has not a distinctive responsibility in this matter. But we do, I think, unitedly agree that whether we have a singular responsibility or not, we have, along with other Powers, a very special responsibility. The position of Great Britain is that of a nation which is, through its leading representatives, perfectly clear and perfectly determined on this matter. We have a Minister charged with this particular question whose every utterance has given, not merely by what he has said but by the way in which he has said it, the assurance that he cares about the matter and is dealing with it with statesmanlike prudence and firmness. He is the representative of the Party at present entrusted with the government of the country. If we look at the Opposition in this and the other House, we find that on this subject they would say all that the noble Marquess says and even more. We observe that they have withheld from any political action here, or even in the more controversial atmosphere of the other House, which could have the effect of showing that we were divided or of forcing the responsible Minister into words which might do anything to justify the present situation. This is the point I wish to urge on your Lordships. The attitude of the nation is clear. Yet we go on in this way year after year, counting, as it were, so far as public appearances go, for nothing, accomplishing nothing, coming no nearer to our end or so little nearer that we cannot feel any very great pleasure in it.

I remember that it was said not very long ago, in connection with another political controversy, that there were limits to human nature. I venture to say that in this matter we seem to aim at a virtue almost above the ordinary human standard. Our self restraint is so saintly as to be almost suspicious. We submit our views to Europe; those views are ignored, snubbed, and set aside. We accept it with unfailing courtesy and patience; we do not show a flicker of resentment; our temper is unruffled. That is precisely the position which this nation occupies in regard to the Macedonian question. Considering the European situation and the knowledge that our policy is disinterested and humane, we ought to ask rather more loudly than we are asking why England should not have a part in the settlement of this matter—at least as much as Austria and Russia. We have been told that there are reasons why these two Powers were specially suited to the purpose. We have been told that they were so because of their proximity, because of their race, and because of their knowledge of the circumstances. As to proximity, of course we cannot deny that we are a little further off. Distance does not mean quite so much as it did in the government of the world, but distance is no doubt a factor against us. When we come to racial connection, I own I am surprised that that argument should be adduced. I suppose what is meant is the Slav relationship between Russia and Bulgaria. But then how does that square with the warnings that what is needed is a power to hold the Bulgarian and Greek elements in impartial check. Is not the racial connection precisely a disabling rather than an enabling factor in the case? Would it not appear that a Power like Great Britain, which is as obviously disinterested, whatever our foreign critics may say, as a Power can well be in a matter of this kind, would be better for the purpose. And as to knowledge of the circumstances, I do not think the noble Marquess will admit that his knowledge of the circumstances is inferior to the knowledge possessed by the Foreign Ministers of Russia and Austria. I do not think we have any doubt about the sufficiency of our knowledge of the circumstances. This being the case, we ought to be united in a little more directness of treatment of this matter. We ought to treat certain points as absolutely clear. We take it as a matter of course that the Turkish Government is hopeless. We have proved that by experience. We all know that Turkish diplomacy is not really diplomacy at all in any noble or right sense of the word, but merely a network of obstruction. The noble Lord (Lord Newton) says we all know that the Turkish Empire will pass away. We know, at any rate, the way in which reform will come for these subjects and victims of its power. It will only come when some external Power, or Powers, insist that it shall come and see that it does. We want to know what we are waiting for, and when the case will be at all better or easier. Are we waiting for some horrible tornado of massacre such as from time to time stirs the heart of Europe, or are we waiting, which is more probable, for the outbreak of war between Bulgaria and Turkey, which we all regard as in every sense a contingency that would do harm? The only good that it could possibly do would be that it would exchange the miserable equilibrium of the present moment for something which might in the end, at great cost, bring some relief.

Those of us who take the line which has been adopted by the noble Earl who raised this question, and which I have adopted, are very often charged with one-sided sympathy for Christian races, with casting all the reproach upon the Turk and representing that the races over which he rules are simply sheep without offence, upon which he inflicts injury; and we are told that if we really faced the facts we should find that the parties are as bad as each other, that the differences between the Bulgarians and the Greeks constitute one of the very worst features of the situation, as undoubtedly they do, and that the atrocities committed by Bulgarians on Greeks are revolting, as undoubtedly they are. But all this is purely beside the point. We know all the facts which are thus brought against us. We know the unhappy condition of these populations. We know how they have, by centuries of misgovernment, been led to courses of violence. But that does not in the least affect our desire to see some form of solution which would bring all these elements into order. I hold in my hand a pamphlet which has been lately issued by those interested in the Greek side of the matter, which is, of course, full of proof of how entirely Greek Macedonia is, and how objectionable and cruel the Bulgarians are. But when I come to the end of this statement I cannot help being struck by finding precisely the language used on behalf of the Greeks which we have been using. I will read an extract—

> "The conflict of contending interests, with its attendant menace, must not be allowed to go on for ever, and the longer a settlement is delayed the more the dangers will increase. For humanity's sake Great Britian cannot be indifferent to the question. Human lives are at stake as long as the present condition of affairs exists. For purely national interests it would be unwise for England not to concern itself."

Then there comes a passage which goes home to me very much. It is as follows—

> "That the British Government is alive to the importance of the question}the latest Blue-book

proves. Is the nation alert? A Government in a constitutional country is the mouthpiece of the people. No Constitutional Government will act in advance of public opinion. It is therefore necessary for the people of England to declare their opinion."

It is to voice the feelings of some small section, at any rate, of English opinion, and to appeal to the English nation at large to speak more firmly and decidedly than it has hitherto done, that we take part in this debate.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, the noble Lord on the bench behind me drew a somewhat melancholy picture of an average Macedonian debate in the House of Lords, and as far as I was able to follow him he reserved for the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs the duty of making the most depressing and monotonous of all the depressing and monotonous statements to which the House was compelled on such occasions to listen. The statement I am about to make may seem monotonous to your Lordships, but it shall not be entirely animated by that feeling of resignation which the noble Lord attributes to all who are concerned in this question of Macedonian policy. I cannot, to begin with, accept as accurate the noble Lord's statement that the position in the Balkan Peninsula is at this moment precisely what it was a year ago. I am far from saying it is satisfactory, but I think I shall be able to show that on some points there has been a perceptible improvement. On the other hand, it must be admitted that a condition of great unrest prevails in the country, and, although there has been no general uprising, there have been many deplorable incidents and many shocking crimes; and it is, perhaps, the saddest feature in this sad chapter of history that on these occasions the greatest sufferers are the innocent and inoffensive villagers, on whom too often the vengeance either of the Turkish soldiery or of the insurgent bands is so ruthlessly wreaked.

In our view it is urgent that there should be some improvement in this condition of things. We entertain that feeling on the ground of humanity, and also because we believe that, while the condition of the Balkan Peninsula remains what it is, it constitutes a standing menace to the peace of Europe. So long as the condition of these vilayets affords a pretext for the incursion of armed insurrectionary bands, so long as the attacks of these bands afford a pretext to the Turkish Government for keeping up a vast force of ill-disciplined soldiery in Macedonia, so long as the presence of that great force affords an excuse to Bulgaria for making military preparations which cannot fail to have a disquieting effect, so long will the Macedonian question threaten the peace of Europe.

Something has been said in this debate as to the responsibility of this country for the condition of Macedonia. I have, at any rate, never disputed that a responsibility, and a serious responsibility, rests upon this country. What I have, however, sometimes protested against has been the attempt to show that that responsibility was entirely ours, and that it was owing to sins of omission or commission on our part that the condition of Macedonia is what it is. I believe that if there is any Power which is less responsible for the condition of Macedonia than another, that Power is Great Britain. Ever since the Treaty of Berlin this country has made, I venture to say, greater efforts than any other country to obtain for the European provinces of Turkey that measure of good government which was promised to them when the Treaty of Berlin superseded the Treaty of San Stefano. The responsibility, in our opinion, is a collective responsibilty, and any action which may be taken in consequence of it should be not the isolated action of any one Power, but action taken either by or on behalf of all the Powers signatory to the Treaty of Berlin.

I listened with attention to the eloquent speech of the right rev. Prelate. He spoke with warmth, and with a certain amount of impatience of the scant measure of success which has hitherto attended our efforts. I do not quite gather from him what was the moral he drew. I do not know whether he went so far as to suggest that this country, in despair of obtaining a more prompt realisation of its wishes, should separate tself from the other Powers and should have recourse to isolated action. I have always been one of those who believe that, although it is conceivable that in the last resort isolated action might become inevitable, no greater misfortune could befall this country, or the European Powers, or, indeed, the suffering population of Macedonia, than that one Power should, in defiance of the wishes of the rest, take upon itself single-handed the duty of redressing these evils. I would ask your Lordships to consider for a moment what the assumption of such a task would mean. Let us assume that we have formulated our demands, that we have insisted on their acceptance by the Turkish Government, that, if the Turkish Government were reluctant, we have sent our Fleet to Constantinople, and that, finally, our proposals have been accepted without further demur. Should we in that case really be any nearer to the actual accomplishment of these reforms? You might get your reform measures accepted on paper, but the real difficulty is to get them carried out on the spot. In the circumstances I have imagined, there would be one way, and one way only, in which you could obtain the execution of the reforms on the spot, and that would be to send a British army to occupy the Macedonian provinces. I have only to ask your Lordships to consider the state of Macedonia, the magnitude of the military forces employed in that country and the adjoining countries, and then to ask you whether that is a task which any British Government, or any British Minister, could light-heartedly recommend to their country? Therefore, my Lords, we did not dissociate ourselves from the other Powers, and we gave to the two neighbouring Powers that mandate of which so much has been said.

I understood the right rev. Prelate to ask why Russia and Austria were selected for carrying out that mandate. The right rev. Prelate suggested that they were singularly unfitted for the task, and that it might better have been placed in other hands. But does he suppose that these two Powers would have been content to stand on one side and commit the execution of reform to the hands of the other Powers? What was in our minds was the great difficulty of proceeding by means of the cumbrous and complicated machinery of the European Concert. We have had some experience of it in recent years, and in our view there was a better chance of obtaining what we wanted if we could arrange that two of the Powers should accept at the hands of the others the task we all desired to see accomplished

Let me refer for a moment to the circumstances in which that mandate was given. Your Lordships will recollect that two schemes of reform were promulgated in 1903 by Russia and Austria. In the first place, there was what was known as the Vienna programme which made its appearance in the spring of 1903, and that was followed in the autumn by the later development known as the Mürzsteg scheme. In February, 1903, it was announced by the Austrian and Russian Governments that, in order to ensure the regular working of the local administration, a budget of receipts and expenditure was to be drawn up for each vilayet and that the revenues of the province, which were to be checked by the Imperial Ottoman Bank, were to be assigned, in the first place, to the requirements of the local administration, including the payment of the civil and military salaries. At the same time it was announced that there was to be an alteration in the mode of collecting the tithes, and the system of farming them out. Later in the year came the Mürzsteg programme, a supplementary scheme under which two Powers undertook to demand the reorganisation of the administrative and judicial institutions, a department in which it would be desirable to give access to the Christians of the country, and to favour the development of local autonomy, while the Powers pledged themselves to introduce without delay the reforms already included in the Vienna scheme.

That twofold scheme seemed to us to provide, and I think it did provide, at any rate the basis of a scheme, which, if properly developed, might have been adopted with the best possible results for the Macedonian provinces. We accordingly accepted it; but we accepted it with the reservation that, if it failed to realise the anticipations of its framers, we should be at liberty to suggest other and more far-reaching measures. We have never lost sight of those reservations; we have constantly borne them in mind. Lord Newton in his speech also complained of us for placing ourselves in the hands of Austria and Russia, because he imputed to them sinister designs of territorial aggrandisement in the Balkan Peninsula, and suggested that it was inconceivable that Powers harbouring such designs could honestly and effectually carry out the reform of the Macedonian provinces. I think that was an unjust imputation on the part of the noble Lord and I am sorry he has made it.

Lord NEWTON: It is what everybody believes.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: I am bound to say that since I have been concerned in these questions I have been unable to detect in the conduct of either of the two Governments to which the noble Lord has referred any attempt to turn the incidents which we are discussing this evening to their own selfish advantage. Whether they have or have not ideas that in the event of the breaking up of the Turkish Empire they might claim certain reversionary interests is another matter. I take it that in all parts of the world wherever you have to deal with weak Powers you will find that other Powers, generally neighbouring Powers, are under the impression that they have a reversionary interest of that kind. But the point which I wish to make is that it is not fair to impute to the Austrian and Russian Governments that they have taken advantage of the deplorable state of things in Macedonia in order to arrive at private ends of their own.

With regard to the progress which has been made during the past year, I think it is not the case that there has been so complete a failure as the noble Lord would have us suppose. In the first place, a good deal has been done in the way of repatriation. Some months ago it was reported to us that in the whole of Macedonia 20,000 out of 25,000 refugees had been repatriated. Only the other day I received information to the effect that in the Adrianople vilayet—a district where some of the greatest hardships have been undergone by the people—the extended permission which the Porte had granted would cover all the Adrianople refugees still left in Bulgaria who wished to return, and that there seemed to be a fair prospect that, with a little good will on both sides, one, at least, of the causes of complaint between Bulgaria and Turkey would shortly disappear. That information is from our Chargé d'Affaires at Sofia. Again, there has been an experiment in the commutation of tithes, and the reports as to the thirty villages in which that experiment has been tried are of a very reassuring description. No system lends itself more to oppression of all kinds than the system of farming out tithes.

Then we come to the question of the *gendarmerie*. The noble Lord, Lord Newton, poured a considerable amount of ridicule upon the *gendarmerie*, but I think I shall be able to show your Lordships that the reorganisation of the *gendarmerie* has had already some very important and very satisfactory results. The number of *gendarmerie* officers has lately been increased; there are now forty-eight altogether. Then *gendarmerie* schools have been opened at Salonica—a school for officers and a school for recruits. Last autumn there were 250 men in training and 250 more were expected. On December 1st last the first batch of *gendarmes* were sworn in before the Inspector-General and the Consular representatives; and I am told that general admiration was expressed at the manner in which these ignorant, undisciplined men had been turned into smart and well-disciplined soldiers. Then it has been arranged, and I think it is a matter of some importance, that whenever domiciliary visits are made to the villagers' houses only trained *gendarmes* under the foreign officers should be employed. We think that that is likely to have the effect of diminishing the chance of an occurrence of many of the abuses of which so much complaint has been made.

Besides that I have more than once said to your Lordships that to my mind one very valuable effect of the presence of these *gendarmerie* officers would be that we should be able to obtain what we have so rarely been able to obtain—thoroughly

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

trustworthy and reliable reports as to some of the incidents which are complained of. For example, in a very bad case at a place called Kuklish we should not have had any report at all if it had not been for the presence of a Russian *gendarmerie* officer. From that officer a very full and complete report was obtained; and upon that report the Ambassador was able to found his representations, which I believe had a good effect, because a full inquiry has been ordered into the conduct of the troops on that occasion. But I can say more than that, because in two comparatively recent cases we have reports which show that the *gendarmerie* officers were actually able to do a great deal in the way of preventing the perpetration of some of those acts of oppression which figure so largely in these reports. Here is an account of an occurrence in the neighbourhood of Vodena. A small band of *komitajis* was surrounded, the village was attacked, and judging from past experience it would have been natural to expect that the innocent villagers would have suffered very considerably. But what actually happened was that, although a barn was set on fire, none of the village houses were burned, no non-combatants were injured, and, although perquisitions were made in fourteen houses, no looting or other excesses took place. The Consul-General adds—

> "The most interesting feature in this encounter is to be found in the fact that stringent orders had been issued by Hilmi Pasha to avoid any repetition of the excesses of Kuklish, and that the command of the troops employed was confided to two Turkish *gendarmerie* officers—a captain and a lieutenant—who had lately passed through the *gendarmerie* school for *Chefs de Poste* at Salonica. The manner in which these officers, who are the first of the reorganised *gendarmerie* to be placed in charge of such operations, have performed their difficult task is in striking contrast to the usual mode of procedure, and must prove a great satisfaction to the foreign officers responsible for their training, and augurs well for the future success of the force."

I have another case relating to the village of Smol, very closely resembling that which I have just described; and I venture to suggest to your Lordships that with that evidence before us in the early days of the *gendarmerie* it is scarcely fair to represent the reorganisation of that force and the training which officers and men have undergone as being a negligible quantity.

Lord NEWTON: May I interrupt the noble Marquess? I never said anything against the *gendarmerie*. I merely said that they were much too few to put down the excesses committed by the revolutionary bands. I did not express any contempt for them.

*__The Marquess of LANSDOWNE__: I am glad I misunderstood the noble Lord. I gathered from the general tone of his remarks that he was pouring a good deal of ridicule on the *gendarmerie*. I may also say that in the particular section of the country that has been put under British *gendarmerie* officers excellent results have been obtained. I may mention amongst other things that, owing to the influence of Colonel Fairholme and his brother officers, Turkish company officers, who showed themselves obstructive have been deprived of their command, that our *gendarmerie* officers have been allowed access to the prisons—a most important point—and that they have also been allowed to be present in Court when trials have been proceeding. All that seems to me to show that, so far at all events as the *gendarmerie* are concerned, something has been accomplished in the way of reforms. When we remember that this has been done in a country distracted by unrest, paralysed by the excesses of the troops, and saturated with old race antipathies which existed long before the Turks went into the country, I think we must feel that our efforts have not been entirely in vain. I should in any circumstances have asked your Lordships whether, this being so, it was necessary for us to proclaim that everything which has been done under the mandate had been a failure.

But I am the more anxious that your Lordships should not rush to that conclusion, because at this moment the two Powers, and indeed all the Powers concerned, are not sitting with folded hands congratulating themselves upon that which has been achieved. It is admitted on all sides that further reforms are necessary and should be undertaken at once. The noble Lord spoke particularly of the scheme of financial reforms which has been put forward by Austria and Russia. As to that, the right rev. Prelate asked your Lordships what use it was to prescribe financial reforms for a country in such a grievous state as Macedonia. My Lords, I venture to tell the right rev. Prelate that the condition of Macedonia never will be improved unless its financial system undergoes a thorough and complete overhauling. Financial reform lies at the root of all other reforms. You cannot expect the civil administration of the country to be properly conducted, you cannot expect the officials to be paid, you cannot expect the Law Courts to be pure and honest, unless the finances are properly administered, and unless the salaries of the public officers are punctually paid.

The scheme of the two Powers as to which the noble Earl asked me for information was, I think, correctly described by him. The pivot of the scheme is the Imperial Ottoman Bank, which is to be treasurer and paymaster-general for the three vilayets. It is to receive the revenues after the deduction of the obligatory charges and the expenses of administration, and it is to issue the necessary payments. Local budgets are to be framed for the vilayets and sandjaks. Those budgets are to be approved by the Inspector-General and by the Bank and the two Powers interested—Russia and Austria. A general budget is to be drawn up by the Bank; and it is provided that no fresh sources of revenue are to be tapped, and no new expenditure outside the limits of the budget is to be incurred, except with the consent of the two Powers.

Finally, there are to be six inspectors of finance who are to be Turkish subjects nominated by the Bank and appointed by the Inspector-General. That is the outline of the scheme as it has been proposed. It seems to us to be a scheme which contains some good features; but we have made no secret of the fact that it appears to us a very imperfect project, and that in certain respects it falls very short of what is necessary, notably in this respect, that apparently it is contemplated that the Bank is only to receive the surplus revenues after such deductions and abstractions as the local officials may consider themselves justified in making. We also take exception to the scheme on the ground that it appears to be based on an assumption, about which I think there is a good deal to be said—namely, that the mandate to the two Powers to deal with this all-important question is, as a matter of course, to continue beyond the expiration of the present year, when it was always contemplated that that mandate might come to an end.

Then there is the Turkish counter-project, into the details of which I need not go, but which resembles the scheme of the two Powers, differing from it, however, in this, that while the scheme of the two Powers assumes the control of those two Powers, the Turkish scheme does not assume any external control at all.

THE EARL OF LYTTON: Will the noble Marquess say whether there is any project put forward by the Turkish Government for raising revenues such as I have referred to?

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I was coming to that. I have described the financial scheme of the two Powers and the counter-financial scheme of the Turkish Government. I now come to another scheme, separate from those two, but one to which we attach great importance. The Turkish Government has proposed to all the Powers that they should consent to an increase of the Customs duties from 8 to 11 per cent. for the purposes of providing the funds necessary for these Macedonian reforms. Now that is a proposal which I need not say affects this country very closely. Sixty per cent. of the Turkish foreign trade is ours, and it would clearly be impossible that we should allow that trade to be subjected to an increased impost without thoroughly satisfying ourselves that there was a case for accepting such an additional burden.

The proposal is also important for this reason: the two Powers have agreed to it upon condition that the Turkish Government accept their scheme of financial reform; so that it becomes mixed up with the question of financial reform. As to this proposed increase of the Customs duties, we have thought it our duty to ask from the Turkish Government an explanation upon certain points, and amongst them these. We desire to know the basis of the calculation upon which these demands are founded. We want to know what are the estimates of local receipts and expenditure which justify the demand for this grant-in-aid from the Customs receipts. We also think that some attempt should be made to show the Powers that the Customs revenue of Turkey is administered in such a way as to bring to the Turkish Treasury the whole of the receipts which a proper and effectual collection of duties will produce. Unless that can be shown it seems to us that the case for increased duties loses much of its strength. Besides that, we have made it clearly understood that, if we agree to accept this increase, we shall expect some of the great abuses which characterise the administration of the Turkish Customs, and of which we have for many years past complained, to be first removed. That is what we have said to the Turkish Government in regard to their proposal to increase the Customs duties. But I am also able to tell the noble Earl that we have made it clear to the two Powers who have put forward the scheme of financial reforms that we consider that we are entitled to have a voice in the settlement of that scheme before it is finally approved, and I may add that we have said the same to the other Powers.

The noble Earl asked me whether I could give him any information as to a statement which he had noted in a well-known newspaper to the effect that in the month of January His Majesty's Government put forward a scheme of their own for the introduction of reforms. These revelations, I observe, usually come to us from abroad. Whether it is that newspaper correspondents in other countries show more enterprise or that public offices in other countries are less discreet than they are here I do not know; but the author of this statement evidently must have overheard, or have had accessto some one who overheard, an important conversation between myself and the French Ambassador, and must have discussed the contents of confidential despatches which have not yet seen the light and which are not likely for the present to do so. But I think it is very likely that, in the course of my frequent discussions and conversations with the representatives of foreign Powers on this subject, I may have said something not unlike what the noble Lord has gathered from this particular newspaper report; I must, however, ask him not to press me further upon this subject. It is quite clear that these discussions were confidential and should remain confidential. We believe at this moment that there is something very like a consensus of the Powers in favour of further reforms, and we earnestly desire to find ourselves in a position to co-operate with them. It would, therefore, be most unfortunate if these confidential communications were to be divulged; and it would be even more unfortunate if we were to create an impression that, instead of encouraging the other Powers as we have done to strengthen their proposals, we were to embarrass them by running counter-proposals of our own; the existence of which would certainly create, where we least wished to create it, the impression that the European Powers were divided amongst themselves, instead of presenting, as I hope they will, a solid front when they ask for the execution of these further measures.

But, though I am obliged to shelter myself behind official secrecy, I have not the slightest objection to give the noble Lord a general indication of the manner in which we regard the situation which has arisen. I may tell him in the first place that in our opinion the question has reached a stage when all the Powers have the right to make themselves heard, and in the next place that, so far as we are concerned no proposals will be regarded as satisfactory unless they secure to the provinces of Macedonia a financial system effectually decentralised; and I add to that that in our opinion these reforms, whatever they may be, should be extended to the vilayet of Adrianople. I used an expression just now which perhaps I ought to explain more fully. I said that in our opinion no proposals would be satisfactory unless they involved the effectual decentralisation of the financial system of Macedonia, and I dare say the noble Lord would like to ask me what I mean by that expression. I will tell him. We think in the first place that the budget should be so framed as to provide adequately for all the legitimate needs of the civil administration of Macedonia, and we think that those requirements should be a first charge upon the local revenues. I mean by this that they should come first after the obligatory deductions for the payment of the debt and other purposes; but I do not include among the obligatory deductions deductions for the sake of keeping up the large military force now quartered upon the vilayets.

In the next place I mean that the finances of Macedonia should be placed either directly or indirectly under International control; and, lastly, that guarantees should be provided sufficient to render it certain that any revenues which may be ear-marked for the special benefit of Macedonia should find their way there and should not be intercepted or diverted to other purposes. These are the main considerations to which we attach importance; and I hope that my noble friend will agree with me that our voice has been raised in support of the cause of Macedonian reform, and that we have not accepted with that resignation which has been attributed to us the difficulties which have beset our path. We have urged these views, and we shall continue to urge them; and, although I do not desire to appear too sanguine, I for one have every hope that they will command the attention to which we think they are entitled. They have at all events this merit—that they are entirely disinterested, and that we urge our claims in the great cause of humanity and peace.

*Earl SPENCER: My Lords, I am sure we have listened with great interest to the debate which has taken place this evening. The noble Lord opposite, Lord Newton, said that a debate on this subject in your Lordships' House was always monotonous, but I do not think I can agree with him in that. We have had great variety in the observations and sentiments of those who have spoken, and we have heard many interesting and important criticisms on the policy of the Powers and also on the prospect of the success of the present scheme. I rise after the appeal of my right rev. friend who spoke just now to say that the necessity for a great change in the government of Macedonia is recognised as powerfully on this side of the House as elsewhere; and I feel it a duty on my part, as representing my friends here, to join with those who earnestly press for the success of measures of amelioration in Macedonia. I wish to make a few remarks on what has fallen from the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. I confess I felt that he was speaking in a somewhat despondent tone, and was not so sanguine as to the success of the measures adopted by the Powers as he had been on previous occasions. I do not for a moment say he showed less desire for improvement in the government of that country. I think what the right rev. Prelate said of him is quite true, that his sentiments are disinterested, humane, and good for all those concerned. But I venture to think he did not give a very good account of what has been done in the past through the measures that have been undertaken by the great Powers. He told us that the country remained in unrest, and that a great part of the population was still paralysed by the excesses of the soldiery. The instances which the noble Marquess gave of what has already been done appear to be merely isolated instances of improvement here and there. Take the question of the *gendarmerie*. He quoted two cases in which the effect of the *gendarmerie* had been very good; but the *gendarmerie* has been established in Macedonia for about eighteen months.

*The Marquess of LANSDOWNE: The training only began last autumn, and you cannot turn out trained *gendarmerie* in a week.

*Earl SPENCER: I think there must have been some delay in getting the men trained and at work. At all events, the noble Marquess only gave us a few instances of improvement resulting from the *gendarmerie.* So far as my memory serves me the number of officers was orignally to be sixty; but I believe the number is only forty-eight. They are not enough to deal with all the difficulties that have to be encountered. I was glad to hear that there has been progress in regard to repatriation, and that Adrianople is to be included in any scheme of reform. That is a very important matter, and it has all along been proposed by those interested in the question. I am not one of those who have advocated isolated action on the part of His Majesty's Government in this matter. What is done must be done by collective action on the part of the great Powers. But, unfortunately, as the noble Earl who raised this discussion and the noble Lord who followed him pointed out, circumstances have considerably changed since Russia and Austria had the mandate from the other Powers to take this matter up. I do not wish to say anything to hurt the feelings of Russia, but we all know that Russia at this moment is not in the same position to effect the reforms as she was when these matters were first dealt with; though whether she would desire to withdraw and have some other Power put in her place is doubtful. I think the noble Marquess a little misunderstood what fell from the right rev. Prelate with regard to the suggested scheme of financial reform. The right rev. Prelate did not object to having a sound system of finance in these provinces. What I understood him to say was, that the first thing necessary in order to restore peace was to establish order and good government, and that no system of finance which could be devised would be of any avail unless it were accompanied by good government. I feel that very strongly; but I agree that the proposals indicated by the noble Marquess are exceedingly interesting and may lead to considerable progress. We have heard the views of the noble Marquess on several occasions. On a former occasion, he actually proposed that a Christian Governor should be appointed to manage these provinces.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: As an alternative.

*EARL SPENCER: I hope that proposal has not been forgotten, as I cannot help thinking that the appointment of a Christian Governor for these provinces would be one of the most effectual ways of putting an end to the mischief and disorder and unrest which now prevail. The noble Marquess did not explain to us the relations between the *gendarmerie* and the Turkish military and civil authorities. That is an important matter. At different times we have heard that they are not on good terms, and that the civil and military authorities interfere a great deal with the independent and firm administration of the officers of the *gendarmerie* put there by the great Powers. As I have said, I should be the last to press for individual separate action on the part of His Majesty's Government, but I do urge vigorously that the great Powers should do everything possible by pressure on Turkey to put an end to a state of things which is so lamentable.

THE EARL OF LYTTON: The noble Marquess said nothing in his speech with reference to the issue of further Papers. I should like to ask him whether, in view of the fact that this Blue-book, which is the last that has been published on this question, is now nearly eight months old, he can see his way to give further Papers on the subject.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I will consider my noble friend's suggestion. I think he is fairly entitled to ask for more Papers, and I will see what Papers can be presented; but it obviously would not be possible to present Papers regarding any matters which are still under consideration between the Powers.

Motion, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. to be considered on Thursday next in order to its being suspended for that day's sitting.

House adjourned at a quarter
before Seven o'clock, to
Thursday next, half-past Ten
o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 28th March, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

THE CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS.

The Clerk at the Table informed the House of the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of Ways and Means.

NEW WRIT.

New Writ for the Borough of Brighton, in the room of Gerald Walter Erskine Loder, Esquire, Commissioner for executing the Office of Treasurer of the Exchequer of Great Britain and Lord High Treasurer of Ireland.—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

Clay Cross Railway (Abandonment) Bill; Morley Corporation Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Metropolitan Electric Tramways Bill. Read a second time, and committed

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee—

1. "That, in the case of the Worcestershire County Council (Bridges), Petition for leave to deposit a Petition for a Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to deposit their Petition for a Bill."

2. "That, in the case of the Malvern Water, Petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with. That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

3. "That, in the case of the Cork Junction Railways Bill, the Standing Order 66 ought to be dispensed with, provided that the names of such of the Companies mentioned in Clause 60 of the Bill as have not in the meantime held meetings approving the Bill under the said Standing Order be struck out of the said Clause 60, and that proof be given to the Committee on the Bill that such of the said Companies whose names are not struck out of the said Clause have approved the Bill in the manner prescribed by the said Standing Order 66. That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

Resolutions agreed to.

Cork Junction Railways Bill. Report [this day] from the Select Committee on Standing Orders read.

Bill ordered to be read a second time.

Acton Sewage Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

House-letting (Scotland) Bill. Second Reading deferred from Tuesday next till Friday, 7th April.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to amend and define the borrowing powers of the Urban District Council of Tralee, in the county of Kerry; and to enable them to borrow additional moneys; and for other purposes." [Tralee Urban District Council Bill [Lords].]

Also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to confer further powers on the Metropolitan District Railway Company; and for other purposes." [Metropolitan District Railway Bill [Lords].]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act to enable the Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Company to create and issue additional preference shares; and for other purposes." [Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords].]

Tralee Urban District Council Bill [Lords]; Metropolitan District Railway

Bill [Lords]; Tyneside Tramways and Tramroads Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petition from Bath, for alteration of law; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petition from Rothesay, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Bournemouth; and Leicester; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SUNDAY) BILL.

Petition from Rubery, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition from Bethnal Green, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND) (INSPECTORS AND AUDITORS).

Return [presented 27th March] to be printed. [No. 100.]

MARRIAGES, BIRTHS, AND DEATHS (ENGLAND).

Copy presented, of General Abstract of Marriages, Births, and Deaths registered in England and Wales in the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS (NAVY VOTES).

Copy presented, of Treasury Minute, dated 25th March, 1905, authorising the temporary application of Surpluses on certain Navy Votes for the year 1904–5 to meet Excesses on other Navy Votes for the same year [pursuant to Resolution of the House of 4th March, 1879]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 101.]

NAVAL WORKS ACTS, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1901, AND 1903.

Account presented, showing the amount of Money issued out of the Consolidated Fund; the mode in which it was provided; the amount and nature of the Securities created in respect thereof; the amount of the surplus of Income above Expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1896, and the amount of Money expended in pursuance of the Acts during the year ended the 31st March, 1904; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 102.]

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND VACCINATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of the Fiftieth Annual Report on the Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Scotland for 1904, and Fortieth Annual Report on Vaccination [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS.

Copy presented, of Report of the Crofters' Commission for the year 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of General Annual Return of the British Army for the year ending 30th September, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th March; *Mr. Bonar Law*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 103.]

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LABOUR.

Address for "Return showing the terms of the following resolutions embodied in the Final Protocol of the International conference on Labour in Factories and Mines, held at Berlin in 1890, namely, Section I. 1 (a), 1 (b), Section III. 1 to 7, Section IV. 1 to 5, Section V. 1 to 5; and the degree to which the recommendations in each of the said resolutions are now carried out in each of the countries represented at that conference."—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

MINES (FATAL ACCIDENTS).

Address for "Return for each year from 1895 and for each inspection district of the number of Fatal Accidents, under each of the headings, Haulage, Machinery, and Sundries, in the Mining Statistics, which occurred to persons employed below ground in Mines to which the Coal Mines Regulation Acts apply, distinguishing the following age groups: 12 to 14, 14 to 16, 16 to 18, 18 to 20, and above 20."—(*Mr. Fenwick.*)

INQUIRY INTO CHARITIES (COUNTY OF BERKS)

Return ordered, "comprising (1) the Reports made to the Charity Commissioners in the result of an Inquiry held in every parish wholly or partly within the county of Berks into Endowments, subject to the provisions of the Charitable Trusts Acts, 1853 to 1894, and appropriated in whole or in part for the benefit of that county, or of any part thereof, together with the Reports on those Endowments of the Commissioners for inquiring concerning Charities, 1818 to 1837; (2) a Digest showing, in the case of each such parish, whether any, and, if any, what such Endowments are recorded in the books of the Charity Commissioners in the parish; and (3) an Index, alphabetically arranged, of names and places mentioned in the Reports."—(*Mr. Griffith Boscawen.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Unemployed Half-pay Colonels with Staff College Certificates.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state the number of colonels on half-pay unemployed holding Staff College certificates.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The number of full colonels on half-pay unemployed holding Staff College certificates is twenty-nine.

Contractors Struck off Government List and reinstated during South African War.

CAPTAIN NORTON: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he can give the names of the firms previously struck off the list of Government contractors which were restored to that list during the period of the late South African War.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) Three firms previously struck off the War Office headquarters list of contractors were restored to that list during the South African War. But, seeing that their work was satisfactory, I am reluctant to do them possible injury by stating their names in public. I will give them to the hon. and gallant Member privately, if he so desires.

Cost of Barracks built under the Army Corps Scheme.

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War what has been the total cost of the barracks built under the Army Corps scheme on Salisbury Plain and in other districts; whether those barracks will be utilised under the present scheme; and, if not, whether building operations have been suspended.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The hon. Member is mistaken in supposing that any barracks on Salisbury Plain or in other districts were built with special reference to the Army Corps scheme. Owing to the large increase in the artillery and infantry during the last few years it has been necessary to provide considerable additional accommodation. All these barracks will be required, though some of them may be reappropriated to units other than those for which they were originally intended. There has been no suspension of building.

Naval Lands (Volunteers) Bill.

MR KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is proposed to take the Second Reading of the Naval Lands (Volunteers) Bill before the Easter recess; whether, seeing that it is a measure that will save expense to the Volunteer force, it is the intention of the Government to pass it through its various stages without undue delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) It is hoped to take the Second Reading of this Bill before the Easter recess, but this must depend on the condition of business in the House. It is intended to pass the Bill through all its stages with as little delay as possible.

Board of Trade Shipping Regulations—Reappointment of Select Committee.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can yet state when the Select Committee on Board of Trade Shipping Regulations will be reappointed.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Committee will, I hope, be appointed very soon.

Cruelty to Animals—Shipping of Old Horses to the Continent.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he is aware that renewed complaints have been made to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and to kindred societies in Rotterdam and Antwerp, as to the condition in which old horses are shipped from the eastern ports of this country, and particularly from Goole and Grimsby; and if he will instruct the inspectors of the Board of Agriculture to fulfil to the letter the Orders in Council and the instructions of his predecessors with a view to reducing to a minimum the sufferings of these animals on the voyage, and the prevention of the export of animals afflicted with actual disease.

(*Answered by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes.*) I have not received recently any communication from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on this subject, but my attention has been called to the letters respecting it which have appeared in the *Field* newspaper during the last few weeks. It is the duty of our inspectors, in pursuance of their instructions, to keep the Orders governing the exportation of horses continuously in view, and to take every possible means of securing their efficient enforcement by the local authorities. I do not think there is any failure of duty on their part in this respect. I may perhaps be allowed to express my entire sympathy with the hon. Member in his desire that the evils of the trade in question should be reduced to the lowest possible point.

Resale of Old Chains from the Dockyards to the Admiralty.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if his attention has been called to the importation into the Staffordshire chain making district from the dockyards of quantities of chain, in such lengths as permit of their being easily joined together and resold; if so, will he say if such a practice is a contravention of an existing Admiralty order; and, if so, whether he will take steps to have the order enforced.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The hon. Member apparently refers to the unserviceable chain sold at dockyard auctions. This matter was thoroughly investigated in 1894, and orders were then issued that the end links and parts of all chain sold were to be stamped about every six feet, and the stay pins knocked out. There is no reason for assuming that these instructions are not being properly carried out by the dockyard officers. It is a practical impossibility for old chain of this nature to be resold to the Admiralty, as the iron of which chain cables and rigging are made is inspected, and the chain itself is made under inspection.

Premiums for Carrying Boy Sailors.

SIR CHARLES CAYZER (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can state the amount which was paid to shipowners in the shape of a reduction of the lighthouse dues for 4,373 apprentices carried by them under the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Croydon since 1898; and what was the average yearly payment per head per boy.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I am not able to state the amount paid with respect to the 4,373 apprentices carried under Mr. Ritchie's boy sailors scheme up to the 18th instant, as no payments have yet been made for boys employed during the year 1904–5. The amount paid from 1898 to the end of the year 1903–4 was £13,653. It is not possible to give the average yearly payment per head per boy.

Prices of Sugar in Great Britain and Switzerland.

MR. PLATT-HIGGINS (Salford, N.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state the comparative prices of sugar in this country and in Switzerland in December, 1903, June, 1904, September, 1904, and December, 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) There are difficulties in quoting comparable figures, especially as there appear to be no public quotations of sugar prices in Switzerland. I give below the approximate average wholesale prices (exclusive of duty) of German white granulated sugar in London and Berne at the dates named, and also the price of British refined granulated sugar in London at the same dates:—

	German Granulated Sugar.		British Granulated Sugar.
	London. per cwt.	Berne. per cwt.	London. per cwt.
	s. *d.*	*s.* *d.*	*s.* *d.*
Beginning of December, 1903 -	11 1	11 2	12 4
,, June, 1904 - -	12 3	13 0	13 7
,, September, 1904 -	13 2	14 5	14 9
,, December 1904, -	16 5	17 8	17 10

Regulations under Section 85 of Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889.

MR. MAXWELL (Dumfries-shire): To ask the Lord-Advocate how many applications have been made to the Education Department for approval of regulations made in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, Section 85; in how many cases these regulations have been approved; and what is the amount of the funds dealt with by these regulations.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) In 166 cases regulations under Section 85 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889, were approved by the Scotch Education Department, whilst in 238 cases no regulations were deemed necessary. From the character of the provisions of the schemes affected by the Act, it is impossible to state the amount of the funds dealt with by the regulations which were approved.

Education (Scotland) Fund.

MR. CHARLES DOUGLAS (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Lord-Advocate whether he can state the amounts to be paid into the Education (Scotland) Fund from the several sources prescribed in the Education (Scotland) Bill.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) There are certain balances, referred to in Section 31 (3) of the Bill in the hands of the Department, which amount at the present time to about £230,000 in all. These will constitute the nucleus of the special fund referred to in Section 32; and, subject to the sources of revenue being productive in the same degree as at present, the annual payments to the general fund after its establishment might be expected to be, approximately, as follows:—Under Section 31 (1) (A) (about) £69,000; under Section 31 (1) (B) (about) £60,000; under Section 31 (2) (A) £60,000; under Section 31 (2) (B) (about)

£37,000; under Section 31 (2) (C) £60,000; under Section 31 (2) (D) (about) £223,000; in all (about) £509,000 annually.

Memorandum on Egyptian Budget—Issue as a Parliamentary Paper.

MASTER OF ELIBANK (Edinburgh, Midlothian): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, looking to the value and interest of the information contained in the Memorandum on the Egyptian Budget of the Financial Adviser to the Egyptian Government, he will in future issue it as a Parliamentary Paper.

(*Answered by Earl Percy.*) It seems doubtful whether the demand for the publication is sufficient to justify the expense of its issue as a Parliamentary Paper, especially in view of the fact that the Memorandum is published in the Egyptian official journal, and can therefore be easily obtained.

The House of Commons Tea Room.

MR. PARTINGTON (Derbyshire, High Peak): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether, with a view to providing more accommodation for Members of this House, he will consider the advisability of having tea served in the large dining-room so that the present tea-room could be used as a newspaper and writing room.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The First Commissioner is quite ready to consider the matter; but he doubts very much whether such an arrangement would be convenient for all Members of the House. The First Commissioner, moreover, hesitates to recommend an alteration of this character without receiving from Members some general assent to the proposal.

Delivery of Registered Letters—Case of Mr. W. Josling.

MR. LOUIS SINCLAIR (Essex, Romford): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a letter sent by registered post from the Ilford Post Office on February 17th last, and addressed to Mr. W. Josling, Senior, Clarke's Farm, Walter Belchamp, near Sudbury, was allowed to be intercepted by Mr. W. Josling, Junior, of Fisher's Farm, Walter Belchamp, who destroyed it without its reaching the addressee; and, if so, what steps he proposes to take in the matter as regards punishment and redress.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I am aware of the case mentioned. The registered letter was delivered to the addressee's representative. The addressee, who was ill in bed at the time, states that he approves the action taken with regard to it. I do not, therefore, feel called upon to take any further steps.

Accidents caused by Motor-Cars and Motor-Cycles.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will grant a Return of the number and nature of the casualties caused by motor-cars and motor-cycles from June 1st, 1904, to March 1st, 1905, in continuation of the Return granted last session.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I shall be happy to furnish the hon. Member with these figures for the Metropolitan police district, as I did last year.† As I then explained, I have no means of obtaining them for the whole country.

Privilege Leave and Furlough for Officers of the Indian Army.

MASTER OF ELIBANK: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will state the regulations now in force in regard to privilege leave and furlough for officers of the Indian Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Brodrick.*) The regulations now in force were published in an Indian Army Order, dated 1st February, 1904. Under that Order officers of the Indian Army, and officers of the Indian medical service in military employ, are permitted to combine privilege leave with furlough, provided that the total absence from duty on any one occasion does not exceed eight months, and that such combined leave is taken between February 15th and November 15th. In certain cases this restriction as to dates may be waived.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxxvi., 141.

Science Training of Irish National School Teachers.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that only 500 teachers of national schools in Ireland have passed through a full course of elementary science instruction; that less than 5,000 teachers have attended the organisers' classes and have been trained on the work for the junior standards only, and that over 8,000 teachers have got no training whatever; and will he explain why, in view of these facts, six of the science organisers have received notice that their services will not be required after March 31st; and will he say what arrangements have been made for the training of the teachers who have not as yet had an opportunity of attending a course of science instruction; and will he call for the reports of the Head Organiser of Science Instruction and of the inspectors and be guided by their expert opinions in deciding as to whether or not the services of the science organisers at present employed should be retained.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) I beg to refer to the Answers which I gave to similar Questions put by the hon. Member for West Cavan yesterday†. I do not propose to call for the reports mentioned in the concluding inquiry. The consideration of these reports is for the Commissioners.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Water Supply to His Majesty's Ships at Malta.

SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the Civil Lord of the Admiralty whether His Majesty's ships at Malta were formerly supplied with drinking water from the Valetta town reservoir *via* the naval tank at Corradino, and are not now so supplied; and, if so, when was the change made, and why.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): No alteration has been made in the method of supplying His Majesty's ships with water for several years past. The water is obtained from the aqueduct mains belonging to the Civil Government, supplemented by the rainfall on the Admiralty catchment areas which partially feed the Corradino tank.

SIR JOHN COLOMB: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, during the year 1904, there were many cases of typhoid in His Majesty's ships resorting to Malta Harbour.

*MR. PRETYMAN: During the year 1904, forty-six cases of enteric (typhoid) fever were admitted into Malta Hospital.

SIR JOHN COLOMB: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many cases of typhoid occurred during 1904 in His Majesty's ships "Venerable," "Montagu," and "Arrogant," respectively; and how many cases ended fatally.

*MR. PRETYMAN: In H.M.S. "Venerable" there were seventeen cases of typhoid fever, four ending fatally; in H.M.S. "Montagu," six cases and one death; in H.M.S. "Arrogant," four cases and one death. As these Questions and Answers might be liable to cause misapprehension, I think it desirable to add that the outbreaks of typhoid in these ships were not due to the Malta water supply. The disease was contracted during the visits of the ships to other Mediterranean ports.

SIR JOHN COLOMB: Then it is not correct that the supply from Valetta ceased in 1893?

*MR. PRETYMAN: No, Sir.

DR. HUTCHINSON (Sussex, Rye): What precautions have been taken to prevent this occurring again?

*MR. PRETYMAN: I have said the outbreak did not arise from the water supply

DR. HUTCHINSON: But it was due to some water supply.

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† See page 1205.

The Admiralty and Internal Combustion Engines.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if his attention has been directed to the high speed attained by boats fitted with internal combustion engines; if experiments are being conducted by the Admiralty to prove the value of boats so fitted for naval purposes; and if he can state the nature and results of such experiments.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: The reply to the first and second parts of the hon. Member's Question is in the affirmative. With regard to the latter part, the experiments are not sufficiently advanced to enable a decision to be arrived at as to the general suitability of this type of engine for naval purposes.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that foreign Governments are taking up this question seriously?

*Mr. PRETYMAN: Yes, Sir.

Welsh Steam Coal Supplies.

Mr. SCOTT-MONTAGU: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the diminution of the supply of Welsh steam coal, the Board of Admiralty are taking any, and, if so, what steps to find a suitable substitute for coal for use in the Royal Navy.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: The Report of the Coal Commission indicates no such diminution in the available supply of Welsh steam coal as to necessitate the use of any substitute. Experiments are, however, being conducted with oil fuel.

Mr. COGHILL (Stoke-upon-Trent): Are the Board of Admiralty taking any steps to have a duty placed on the export of this steam coal?

*Mr. PRETYMAN: No, Sir.

Shipbuilding by the Great Powers.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many battleships have been laid down in Great Britain, France, Germany, and Russia in the period 1900–4 inclusive, up to the autumn of 1904, when the present Navy Estimates were framed; what battleships had been sanctioned but not laid down in the four countries when the present Navy Estimates were framed; have any additional programmes for building battleships been brought forward or sanctioned in France, Germany, or Russia beyond what were under consideration when the Navy Estimates were framed; and, if so, what are those programmes.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: The number of battleships laid down in the period 1900–4 inclusive in Great Britain was thirteen; France, six; Germany, ten; Russia, six. The number sanctioned but not laid down, in November, 1904, was—Great Britain, two; France, nil; Russia, three; Germany, two each year 1905 to 1909 inclusive, one each year 1910 to 1912 and 1914 to 1916, and two each year in 1913 and 1917. No additional programmes for battleships have been brought forward since November, 1904, by France or Germany. A large new Russian shipbuilding programme is known to be under consideration, probably extending over a series of years, but the extent or date of commencement is not known.

Highland Regiments.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is proposed to group other Highland regiments, besides the Highland Light Infantry, with Lowland regiments, to divest them of the kilt, and to quarter them in depots in the Lowlands of Scotland.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.): No, Sir.

Highland Light Infantry Headquarters.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state for what reason the Highland Light Infantry is grouped with Lowland regiments, and quartered at Hamilton in the Lowlands of Scotland instead of in the Highlands.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Hamilton has been selected as the best headquarters for the group of Lowland regiments. The Highland Light Infantry have been at Hamilton since 1881. There would not, therefore, appear to be any sound reason for removing them from Hamilton.

Mr. WEIR: Are there no places in the Highlands where the headquarters could be situated?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Very few.

Belfast Army Forage Contracts.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that, in September last, on the military authorities in Belfast inviting tenders for the supply of forage for all the military stations in the Belfast district, including Belfast, Dundalk, Athlone, and Belturbet, these contracts were, in each case, given to one Belfast company, Cullen, Allen, and Co., at prices for hay, oats, and straw from 20 to 33 per cent. higher than various traders, who had each of them at different times discharged forage contracts with satisfaction, had tendered for the contracts thus entailing loss of public money, and that Cullen, Allen, and Co. handed the contracts for Belfast thus obtained to one of the local traders who had tendered himself unsuccessfully, and have allowed him even higher prices than the prices at which he tendered to the military authorities, at the same time obtaining for themselves about 25 per cent. profit, and have likewise farmed out the other contracts to local traders; if so, will he say what explanation, if any, have the War Office authorities to give of these contracts, which are still in existence; and whether there will be an immediate investigation into the circumstances under which these contracts were made.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: These contracts were, as usual, made by the General Officer Commanding, and were duly reported to and approved by the War Office. Messrs. Cullen, Allen, and Co. state that they did not sub-let any of the contracts, and that the business at Belfast is conducted by their own staff.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Did this firm's tender exceed the other tenders by from 20 to 33 per cent., and if so, why was this preference given?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I must ask for notice of any further Question.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: But will there be an investigation, or will the right hon. Gentleman's connection with the city prevent that?

***Mr. SPEAKER:** Order, order!

Life of Field Guns.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the average life of a field gun is about 2,000 rounds, he can state what number of guns now with our batteries are practically useless owing to the rifling having become defective; and whether it is proposed to issue these guns to the Volunteers as soon as the batteries have been re-armed with new quick-firing guns.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: There are no guns now with the batteries which are useless owing to the rifling having become defective. All field guns are examined after every 150 rounds, and when the rifling is worn to such an extent as to render the guns unserviceable they are condemned. As regards the Volunteers no guns would be issued to them except such as are in a serviceable condition.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): May I ask the number of years represented by 2,000 rounds?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I am afraid I cannot answer that Question. It all depends on circumstances.

Reserve of Guns and Ammunition.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what was the reserve of field guns and the supply of reserve gun ammunition at the close of the year 1899, and what supply of each we have at the present moment; also what percentage of the number of guns actually with our batteries is considered adequate for the reserve; and when, according to existing arrangements, the reserve will be complete.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: As I have already informed the hon. Member, I am not prepared to publish information concerning the state of our reserves. As regards the information for the close of the year 1899, I would refer him to a Minute of Sir H. Brackenbury on this subject, dated December 15th, 1899, which will be found in Appendix E. to the Report of the Royal Commission on the South African War (page 278).

Captain NORTON: But can the right hon. Gentleman not say what percentage of the number of guns actually with the batteries is considered adequate for the reserve? And when will the reserve be complete?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The reserve of the guns is being manufactured with the service guns. I think it will be admitted that a proper standard is maintained.

Captain NORTON: Will the reserve be complete in three years.

[The Answer was inaudible.]

Berehaven Defences.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he will state what meaning is to be attributed to the phrase naval ports on page 18 of his Memorandum; what is the present condition of that portion of the defences of Berehaven which has hitherto been supervised by the Royal Engineers afloat; whether it has been handed over to the Navy; and whether the units of Militia garrison artillery intended for the defence of Berehaven on mobilisation are among those for which recruiting has been stopped on the ground that the retention of the units is under consideration.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The phrase naval ports as used in the Memorandum on Army Estimates is merely intended to express those more important ports used by His Majesty's Ships where the Navy were prepared to take over the submarine mines and their appliances. As regards Berehaven, the portion of the defences which has hitherto been supervised by the Royal Engineers afloat is now being prepared for transfer to the Navy. The reply to the last part of the Question is in the negative.

Volunteer Rifle Ranges.

*Colonel LEGGE (St. George's, Hanover Square): On behalf of the hon. Member for Deptford, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War how many new rifle ranges for Volunteers have become available during the years 1902, 1903, and 1904, respectively.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The numbers are as follow:—In 1902–3, 43; 1903–4, 52; 1904–5, 33.

Gibraltar—Inspection by Foreigners.

Mr. MAJENDIE (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what regulations and restrictions exist as to showing the Fortress of Gibraltar to distinguished foreigners who visit the Rock.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Will my hon. friend kindly refer to the King's Regulations, Appendix V., where he will find full instructions with regard to admission to the national defences? Within those instructions the General Officer Commanding concerned has full powers of discretion.

Promotion of Second Lieutenants.

Colonel LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether second lieutenants in the Royal Engineers are being promoted on much shorter service than second lieutenants in the infantry; and whether he can do anything to equalise the promotion in the two services.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The average rate of promotion of second lieutenants in the Royal Engineers for the year 1904 was only two months more rapid than that in regiments of Infantry of the Line, which was two years nine and a-half months. The normal rate in the Royal Engineers is three years, but this was reduced to two years seven and three-quarter months in 1904 by the fact that the reduction of service for promotion to captain from eleven to nine years caused vacancies in the lieutenants' ranks. This acceleration is merely temporary.

Essex Rifle Ranges.

Sir CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether land at Aveley, Essex, has been acquired for ranges at from £100 in one case, to £170 per acre in the other; and will he say why land in Essex, which usually sells for £10 to £15 per acre, was not bought for the War Office.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The selection of a site for extensive ranges for the use of Metropolitan Volunteer Corps has proved a matter of great difficulty, and while no doubt land can be procured in Essex at the prices mentioned, it has not been found possible to obtain large tracts suitable for the purpose or within easy access of London so cheaply as my hon. and gallant friend supposes. The prices paid were determined by arbitration, and the figures given in the Question are approximately correct.

Sir CARNE RASCH: I hope the next time the right hon. Gentleman wants to buy land he will inform me. There are many who will be glad to accommodate him.

Middleburg Electors' Register—Soldiers as Voters.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the soldiers in camp at Middleburg are being placed on the register of electors in that district of Cape Colony; and whether it is the usual practice for soldiers to thus take part in the political affairs of self-governing colonies in which they may be temporarily resident for garrison duty.

The SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Lyttelton, Warwick and Leamington): I understand that British soldiers in Middleburg are being placed on the register of electors. They are registered as voters according to the laws of a self-governing colony with which in this matter I have no right and no desire to interfere.

German Railway to Lake Tchad—British Railway in Northern Nigeria.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether an Act has been passed by the Reichstag of the German Empire for the construction of a railway through the Cameroons to Lake Tchad; and whether His Majesty's Government propose to construct a light railway from the Niger to Zaria in order to develop the cotton-growing industry and the general trade of Northern Nigeria, and with a view to the continuation of such a railway to Kano and ultimately to the Lake Tchad region.

Mr. LYTTELTON: I have no information as to the German railway beyond the statement which appeared in the Press on the 24th instant, to the effect that His Imperial Majesty had signed a Bill for the construction of a railway from the Cameroons to Lake Chad, and that a sum equivalent to £650,000 was required for the first 100 miles. A survey for a railway from the Niger to Zaria was completed last year, but no decision to construct such a railway has yet been taken.

Indian Police Force Reorganisation.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE (Bethnal Green, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if a scheme of reorganisation of the police force in India as an armed force has been adopted; and, if so, will he state whether this is the result of a recommendation by the Police Commission or by the military authorities; also what number of men are to be so armed, and whether they will have to undergo any special training; and what is the estimate of the additional cost of such reorganisation; and further, whether his sanction has been given to the scheme, and if he will lay upon the Table of the House all Papers and correspondence between himself and the Government of India bearing on this subject.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): No new principle affecting the training of the police force in India in the use of arms has been adopted in the reorganisation of the force; but principles laid down in 1860 and 1889 have now been reaffirmed as a result of the inquiries made by the Commission. The military authorities have of course been consulted. The exact additional cost of the reorganisation has not yet been reported to me. I hope shortly to receive from the Government of India Papers which will include a full summary of the decisions arrived at after correspondence. I propose to lay this summary with the Report on the Table.

British East Africa—Zionist Settlement.

MR. PEEL (Manchester, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a concession of, or option over, a tract of land in British East Africa has been granted to the Zionists; if so, what is the position and the acreage of the concession or option; what are the terms and conditions of the arrangement with the Zionists; who are their representatives; and whether, in view of the present policy of the Department, he will refuse to grant large concessions or options of land in East Africa to a private community or association.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Earl PERCY, Kensington, S.): No further step has yet been taken in regard to the allotment of land to the Zionists. We are awaiting the Report of the Commission which is now on its way home, and, as I stated last year, the correspondence will be laid before a final decision is arrived at.

Russia and Contraband of War.

MR. LAWRENCE (Liverpool, Abercromby): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs when he proposes to issue further correspondence on the subject of contraband of war, in view of the fact that the recent Parliamentary Paper (Russia No. 1, 1905) contains no correspondence subsequent to October, 1904; if any modification of the attitude of the Russian Government on the subject has been notified; and, if not, whether His Majesty's Government is continuing to make representations on the subject.

EARL PERCY: The correspondence which has taken place since October relates only to the claims presented by His Majesty's Government. No ground of complaint against the action of the Russian naval authorities has arisen subsequent to the issue by the Russian Government of the supplementary instructions referred to on page 26 of the correspondence already laid.

Russian Fleet off Madagascar.

MR. MAJENDIE: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he has any official information about the duration of the stay of the Russian Fleet in the territorial waters of Madagascar.

EARL PERCY: The Answer is in the negative.

Canadian Government's Age Guarantee for Whisky.

MR. KILBRIDE (Kildare, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has yet received a full report from the Colonial Office as to the practice of the Canadian Government in granting certificates, on the payment of a small stamp duty, to distillers and merchants endorsing the age guarantee affixed by such traders to pot-still whiskies bottled in bond, as the Excise officers know by the official books the exact time such whiskies have been in Government custody; and, if so, whether, in the interest of the trade, the public health, and increase of the revenue, he will instruct the Excise authorities to adopt a similar practice in these countries.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): No, Sir. I have not yet received the report which I have asked for from Canada.

Outstanding Exchequer Bills.

MR. PURVIS (Peterborough): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is the total of Exchequer Bills outstanding at the present time.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think, as I said yesterday† in answer to the hon. Member for North Manchester, that statements relating to the Unfunded Debt which are issued at different dates cause great inconvenience and are apt to mislead. I will therefore ask the hon. Member to await the delivery of the Budget Statement. If the details I then give respecting the National Debt are insufficient, I shall be happy to supplement them.

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† See page 1179.

Promotion by Seniority in the Civil Service.

CAPTAIN NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state why the usual practice of recognising seniority in the case of preferments in the Civil Service has been departed from recently in the case of an appointment to a checking allowance in the Statistical Department, Custom House, in which an assistant clerk was preferred over the heads of nineteen of his colleagues, against nearly all of whom no charge of official incompetency had been made; and whether he will see that due regard is, in future, accorded to the traditional claims of seniority.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): Checking allowances are assigned to those officers who, in the opinion of the Board of Customs, are the most competent for the work to be performed. It was in accordance with this principle that the appointment referred to was made.

The Underground Cable to the North.

SIR ANDREW AGNEW (Edinburgh, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he will state what progress has been made up to the present time with the underground cable to Edinburgh and Glasgow on the Scottish side of the border; what further progress he proposes to make during the present year; and when he expects that the work will be completed.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): With the exception of a small section where there has been some difficulty owing to differences with the road authorities—now fortunately settled—the line of underground pipes is complete to Glasgow. The cable will be drawn in along the whole of that line during the year 1905–6. I shall not be in a position to extend the underground line to Edinburgh at present, but there will be little chance of serious interruption of communication with that city when Carlisle and Glasgow, which have a number of independent lines to Edinburgh, are both on the main underground system.

City of London and the Licensing Compensation Fund.

MR. BENN (Devonport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, as the City of London is only calling up, under the Licensing Act, 1904, one-fourth of the possible compensation fund, he will take steps, by legislation or otherwise, to enable the City to collect the whole fund provided by law, and devote it to the extinction of liquor licences in the county of London.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): No, Sir, I do not see how it would be justifiable under the Licensing Act, 1904, to impose charges on the licences in one jurisdiction for the purpose of extinguishing licences in another jurisdiction.

Valuation for Compensation Purposes of Licensed Premises.

MR. LYELL (Dorsetshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any statistics are being collected whereby the value for compensation purposes of licensed premises may be determined, calculated as if the licence were subject to the same conditions of renewal as were applicable immediately before the passing of the Licensing Act of 1904.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: So far as I am aware, the Answer is in the negative.

Metropolitan Police.

MR. FISON (Yorkshire, W.R., Doncaster): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the total number of Metropolitan police, including pensioners, available for immediate duty; and how many assaults were committed against policemen in London during 1903 and 1904.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The strength of the Metropolitan Police Force is 16,877. Pensioners are not liable for any duty. During the year 1903, 2,683 assaults were committed against Metropolitan policemen, while the number so committed during 1904 was 2,749.

Royal Commission on London Locomotion.

Sir MANCHERJEE BHOWNAGGREE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the means of locomotion and transport in London has completed its deliberations, and when its Report is to be issued.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I regret that I cannot at present add anything to the Answer I gave to the hon. Member for Christchurch on March 21st,† viz., that the Committee are now engaged in preparing their Report and I cannot say when it will be presented.

Approaches to Parliament Buildings.

Mr. FORDE RIDLEY (Bethnal Green, S.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can see his way to make representations to the local authorities to avoid, as far as possible, extensive road repairing at the approaches to the Houses of Parliament during the session.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I have communicated with the London County Council and the Westminster City Council upon this matter, and I am assured that all repairs to the approaches to the Houses of Parliament shall, as far as possible, be performed out of session. The work which is at present being executed is stated to be necessary for the public safety.

London Police and Alien Languages.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether members of the Metropolitan Police Force who are acquainted with the Jüdish-Deutsch and other foreign tongues will be placed in a more favourable position when eligible for promotion than members of the force who are only acquainted with their native tongue.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: The question of promotion in the Metropolitan Police Force is one which must be left entirely to the discretion of the Commissioner, who may be trusted to consider in every case the qualifications and disqualifications of those concerned.

Cultivation of Sugar Beet in England.

Mr. BRIGHT (Shropshire, Oswestry): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture whether there have been any experiments in the cultivation of sugar beet in England; if so, what have been the results of such experiments; whether they have been such as to cause the Board of Agriculture to form an opinion as to whether the cultivation of sugar beet can be profitably undertaken in this country.

*The PRESIDENT oft he BOARD of AGRICULTURE (Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): Several experiments in the cultivation of sugar beet have been carried out in this country, and, so far as they go, it would appear that the yield compares favourably, both as to quality and quantity, with that obtained in Germany. The information in our possession as to the commercial results of the cultivation of sugar beet is much too meagre to enable me to say that its growth could be profitably undertaken here, but we will keep the matter in view and issue from time to time such information respecting it as may be available and likely to be of service to farmers.

Mr. BRIGHT: Are the experiments being continued?

Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES: Yes, Dr. Stein and several landowners in this country and in Ireland are continuing to cultivate sugar beet.

Weather Forecasts for Farmers.

Mr. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he proposes to issue during the present year the daily meteorological reports for the guidance of farmers.

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† See page 650.

*Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES: As my hon. friend may be aware, arrangements were made in 1893 and 1894 for the experimental exhibition at telegraph stations in certain parts of the country of the daily weather forecasts issued by the Meteorological Council during the hay and corn harvests. It was found, however, that the areas to which the forecasts apply were too wide to allow of anything like close accuracy in any particular locality, and the experiment was therefore abandoned. The Meteorological Council recently established a special service of afternoon forecasts during the summer months for the benefit of agriculturists, and they will telegraph these forecasts each day to any persons who will pay the cost of the telegrams. I may add that the expense of the arrangement suggested by my hon. friend is considerable, and I am afraid that there is no prospect of my obtaining the necessary funds for the purpose unless a very strong case for the proposed service can be made out.

General LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): Has the right hon. Gentleman ever studied the methods by which meteorological notices are distributed in Canada and the States by placing them on trains, so that the farmers in the districts through which the trains run may know what weather to expect?

*Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES: I will make some inquiry as to that.

Board of Trade Shipping Regulations—Select Committee.

Mr. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can yet state when the Select Committee on Board of Trade Shipping Regulations will be re appointed.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Committee will, I hope, be appointed very soon.

Underfed School Children—Johanna Street School.

Mr. FORDE RIDLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Lambeth Board of Guardians have made inquiries into the cases of ill-fed children in the Johanna Street School.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of EDUCATION (Sir William Anson, Oxford University): I understand that inquiries have been made, but I have no official information on the subject.

St. Joseph's School, Nymphsfield.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether he is aware that, in the months of May and June, 1904, notices were given for the provision of two new public elementary schools in the village of Nymphsfield, under Section 8 of the Act of 1902; that the county education authority issued the notice in May to take a transfer of an existing Church of England school with twenty-two scholars, and that the managers of St. Joseph's Catholic School, with fifty scholars, issued the notice in June; that St. Joseph's School had been certified efficient for more than three years, and had been conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 7 of the Elementary Education Act of 1870; that appeals were lodged against both proposals; and can he state why the Board of Education decided that the school with twenty-two children was necessary, and that the school with fifty children was not necessary.

Sir WILLIAM ANSON: I may point out to the hon. Member that of the fifty children attending the St. Joseph's School, twenty are Roman Catholic children from other parts of England who are temporarily boarded out in Nymphsfield, seventeen are Protestants, while only thirteen are indigenous Roman Catholics. The Board considered that, in view of the fact that the large majority of the children living in Nymphsfield are Protestants, a Catholic school would not best meet the requirements of the place. It is clear that only one school is required.

Press Marks for the Members' Libraries.

Mr. HERBERT ROBERTSON (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First

Commissioner of Works, if arrangements can be made to place legible letters indicating rooms and numbers on book-cases and shelves, commonly called press marks, in the Members' Libraries.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): This matter is receiving attention.

Ventilation of the House of Commons.

Sir ERNEST FLOWER (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, if it is proposed to carry out certain suggestions made by Dr. M. H. Gordon in his recent Report on Ventilation in the House of Commons; and if these recommendations are in any way incompatible with, or superseded by, the scheme of ventilation now in use.

Lord BALCARRES: The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative; the recommendations are intended to improve the system now in use and are not incompatible with it.

Scottish Medical Officers of Health.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state the names of the six counties in Scotland where the medical officers of health engage in general or consultative practice; and will arrangements be made for such officers to give their whole time to the duties of their office when fresh appointments are made.

*The LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton): The names of the counties are Bute, Forfar, Haddington, Orkney, Zetland, Ross and Cromarty. Since 1901 it has been a necessary condition of participation in the Sanitary Officers' Grant that a county medical officer shall not engage in general private practice.

New Scottish Fishery Board Cruiser—The "Freya."

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, in view of the fact that, shortly after the assembling of the present Parliament, the then Secretary for Scotland stated, in reply to a memorial from Scottish Members, that in order to purchase an additional Fishery Board cruiser he proposed to save moneys out of funds at his disposal for fishery purposes, have any such funds accumulated; and, if so, to what extent.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: Funds were accumulated in the manner indicated by Lord Balfour of Burleigh and a new cruiser, the "Freya," was built and launched last year.

Protection of Scottish Fisheries.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, in view of the fact that the sum of £15,000, placed at the disposal of the Fishery Board for Scotland in terms of Section 2 (3) of The Local Taxation Account (Scotland) Act, 1898, for marine superintendence, is stated to be wholly absorbed, will he state from what source he proposes to obtain funds for the purchase of an additional cruiser required for the protection of the interests of the line fishermen from the depredations of illegal trawlers.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The Secretary for Scotland does not propose to purchase an additional cruiser, as the funds at the disposal of the Fishery Board will not at present admit both of purchase and maintenance of another vessel.

Extraordinary Traffic on Roads.

Mr. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is prepared to introduce a Bill assimilating the law in Ireland with that of England in reference to extraordinary traffic on roads, as dealt with in The Highways and Locomotive (Amendment) Act, 1878, The Locomotive Act, 1898, and The Locomotive Act, 1861.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): I am unable to give any undertaking to introduce legislation on this subject in the present session.

*Mr. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): Before the law is altered, will inquiry be made as to the state of the roads?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I am not sure that an inquiry is necessary. The Question asks if I am prepared to assimilate the law in the two countries. As to the necessity of that there can be no dispute.

*Mr. CATHCART WASON: But the right hon. Gentleman has altered the law in England.

Mr. WALTER LONG: No, Sir. We are discussing totally different things. The Question refers not to motor-cars but to the power of local authorities to make special charges upon the users of heavy engines on their roads.

*Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg the right hon. Gentleman's pardon. He has altered the law in England and Scotland.

Irish Education Board—New Rules.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the attention of the Commissioners of National Education has been drawn to the fact that the new rule with reference to the instruction of children under eight years of age will deprive many assistant male teachers of their positions, and by reducing the average attendance will render insecure the position of others; that it will also result in many cases in reducing the grade of principal teachers of small schools and in debarring them from future increments; and whether, in view of the objections to the rule on the part of the managers, the teachers, and the general public, and of the inconvenience which it will cause, he will have the rule suspended until fuller inquiries will have been made.

Mr. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg also to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now say, in the event of proposed new Rule 127 (b) being put into force by the Commission of National Education, how many assistant national teachers will be thrown out of employment; what amount will be saved to the Treasury by the depression in grade which a number of principal teachers must undergo; and what has been the pratice heretofore adopted by the Commission in regard to vested rights of teachers when a new rule affecting average school attendance has been put into force.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners are unable to anticipate the effect of this rule. I have already stated that the Commissioners will, on application of the manager, specially consider any case in which the enforcement of the rule would lead to the loss of an assistant teacher. The Commissioners, when modifying their rules, always endeavour to safeguard what may be regarded as the vested rights of teachers. It is not intended to put the new rule into operation for some time.

Mr. FLYNN: What is the saving to the Treasury, and what is the effect of the rule on the interests of the teachers?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I cannot say what the saving to the Treasury is, but the Commissioners have safeguarded the interests of the teachers.

Charge against a Borrisnoe Emergency Man.

Mr. KENDAL O'BRIEN (Tipperary, Mid): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, is he aware that on the night of 3rd October last an emergency man named Denis Connolly, of Borrisnoe, was caught in the act of stealing cabbage from the haggart of Daniel Greed residing near the same place; that he was accompanied by Constables Neary and Buckley; that Constable Buckley subsequently asked the Greeds to say nothing about the occurrence, and, on being refused, threatened them; that, a few days later, Head Constable Fallon came to the Greeds, and under the pretext of an investigation obtained from Cornelius Greed a statement of the facts; and that the magistrates at the trial, where Connolly pleaded guilty, expressed their opinions that these constables should have been brought forward as witnesses, and for their production adjourned the trial for a fortnight; and, if so, will he say what order was subsequently made in the case of Connolly, were the constables produced at trial, was any investigation held, and where are those constables stationed at present; and will he take steps to hold an investigation into all the facts of the case.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I have not had sufficient time to examine the papers in this case, which only came before me to-day. Perhaps the hon. Member will defer the Question till Thursday.

Irish National School Teachers.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what promotion in grade was given to those national teachers trained in 1899 and 1900 who were classed first of second on entering the training college, and who passed the examination in 1900; and whether all the teachers so classed on entering were thus promoted.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Every case was dealt with on its merits. In some cases the teacher was promoted in grade; in others he received the equivalent of one or more increments of good service salary without any promotion in grade.

Mountmellick Petty Sessions Clerk.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Sergeant Fitzsimons, Mountmellick, acted on last Court day as petty sessions clerk; and whether, in view of the fact that Fitzsimons was prosecutor in several cases at the same sessions, he will state who is responsible for the appointment and whether it is to continue.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The clerk of petty sessions having been suspended from duty, the custody of the petty sessions books was handed over to Sergeant Fitzsimons under the authority of the 6th Section of the Petty Sessions Act; and the magistrates requested the sergeant to act temporarily as clerk, pending the reinstatement of the clerk or the appointment of a new one. Sergeant Fitzsimons was prosecutor in one case at the last petty sessions. He is not exempt from his ordinary duties whilst in custody of the petty sessions records and acting as clerk.

Mr. DELANY: Why was the clerk suspended?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I have no information as to that.

Heathfield Estate, Sligo.

Mr. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the purchase arrangements of the Heathfield Estate, situate near Collooney, county Sligo, have yet been sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, will he say whether these arrangements include the enlargement of uneconomic holdings by the addition of a portion of the waste land on the estate from which the tenants or their predecessors were evicted.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners cannot identify this estate. If the hon. Member will furnish me with the name of the owner I will have further inquiries made.

Timahoe Evicted Tenant.

Mr. DELANY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that Thomas M'Cormack, Timahoe, Queen's County, an evicted tenant, has been informed by the Estates Commissioners that should they acquire untenanted lands in the Queen's County his application for reinstatement will be considered; and whether, in view of the fact that M'Cormack has already informed the Commissioners that he is willing to take a farm of equal value in any other district, he will state what course the Commissioners propose taking in the matter.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners will consider the application of Mr. M'Cormack should a suitable opportunity occur.

Irish Names and Addresses on Carts.

Mr. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, pending a decision as to the legality of placing the owner's name and address in Irish on carts, he will direct that no more prosecutions shall be instituted by the police in cases similar to that of Nial MacBride, of Dunfanaghy, county Donegal.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Answer to this Question is in the negative.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): How is an owner of a cart who lives in an Irish-speaking district going to identify his cart if his name appears on it in English only?

[No Answer was returned.]

Gore-Booth Estate, County Sligo.

Mr. O'DOWD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Gore-Booth Estate, on which the town of Ballymote, county Sligo, is situate, has recently been sold under the Land Act of 1903, and that the majority of the town tenants are also tenants on the agricultural portion of the estate already sold; and whether, seeing that the purchase arrangements have not been yet completed, and that the vendor is anxious to have the town included in the sale, and is willing to leave the settlement of the price to the Estates Commissioners, this matter will be reconsidered with the view of having the town included in the general terms of purchase.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Estates Commissioners are prepared to make advances for the purchase of holdings which are in the main agricultural or pastoral, but, as my right hon. and learned friend has already informed the hon. Member, the Land Purchase Acts do not contemplate advances on the resale of houses in villages or towns. The matter is one for the decision of the Estates Commissioners, subject to review by Mr. Justice Meredith.

English Appointments to Irish Postmasterships.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General under what circumstances he recently appointed three English officials to vacant Irish postmasterships; what applications did he receive from members of the Irish service for these posts; can he say what special qualifications the three selected officials had over their Irish colleagues; and whether he will give three corresponding positions in England to members of the Irish service.

Lord STANLEY: Appointments to postmasterships, whether in England, Ireland, Scotland, or Wales, are open to all Post Office officials throughout the United Kingdom. In making these appointments I take no account of the nationality of the candidates, and I select for each appointment the candidate who, in my opinion, is the best qualified to fill it.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Are these English importations good Unionists?

Lord STANLEY: I hope so.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): Were there no Irish candidates competent to fill these positions? Are these posts to be reserved exclusively for Englishmen?

Lord STANLEY: There may have been Irish candidates, but they were not so well qualified as the English ones.

Unpaid Post Office Learners in Ireland.

Mr. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that, in face of the statement made by the Bradford Committee that they understood that the system of unpaid learners had been abolished, there are still unpaid learners in many offices in Ireland; and will he take steps to have this system abolished forthwith.

Lord STANLEY: The matter referred to by the hon. Member is under consideration.

Mr. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he can say, in view of the rule of his Department stating that no learners can be kept in the service for over two years without appointments, what arrangements does he intend to make to place upon the establishment in Ireland those learners who have already over two years service.

Lord STANLEY: There is no rule to the effect suggested by the hon. Member. I am now considering what steps can be taken to improve the position of learners of long service who have not been appointed, and the Memorandum I am about to issue will show what is being done temporarily until a definite scheme has been arrived at.

Portrush Harbour.

Mr. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether any, and, if so, what representations have been made to him with regard to Portrush Harbour, county Antrim; and what reply he has given.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH: No representations have reached either the Board of Works or me.

Mr. MACVEAGH: Oh, wait a minute. Did not the hon. Gentleman receive a deputation headed by the hon. Member for North Antrim on this very subject? Has he forgotten it altogether?

[The reply was inaudible.]

Home and Imperial Defence.

Colonel WELBY (Taunton): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the responsibility for the adequacy of numbers and composition of land forces for Home and Imperial defence rests with the Imperial Defence Committee, in their advice to the Department of the War Office, or with the Secretary of State for War, as head of that Department; if with the latter, why the authoritativeness of the Memorandum furnished by the War Office to the Royal Commission on the Militia and Volunteers, setting forth the numbers required for Home defence, was withdrawn two months after that Memorandum was furnished.

The PRIME MINISTER and FIRST LORD of the TREASURY (Mr. A. J. Balfour, Manchester, E.): In reply to my hon. and gallant friend, I have to say that the responsibility rests with the Cabinet, whom it is the duty of the Defence Committee to advise.

Colonel WELBY: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman answer the latter part of the Question.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As my hon. and gallant friend will see, the latter part of his Question is hypothetical and turns upon an affirmative Answer to the second part of the Question, which affirmative Answer I have not given.

Colonel WELBY: The Question as to authoritativeness has relation to a fact.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Certainly, that is so.

Scotch Education Bill.

Sir CHARLES RENSHAW (Renfrew, W.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can fix a day before Easter for the Second Reading of the Scotch Education Bill.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I hope it will be before Easter, but I cannot yet fix a day.

NEW BILLS.

RELIEF OF DISTRESS (IRELAND) BILL.

"To make temporary provision for the supply of seed potatoes to occupiers and cultivators of land, and for other purposes relating to the Relief of Distress in Ireland," presented by Mr. Walter Long; supported by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 127.]

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION ACT (1897) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend The Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Spear; supported by Mr. Duke, Mr. Schwann, Mr. Hogg, Mr. Melville, Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. Charles Allen, Sir James Fergusson, and Mr. Runciman; to be read a second time upon Thursday, April 6th, and to be printed. [Bill 128.]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (1888) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend The Local Government Act, 1888," presented by Mr. Spear; supported by Mr. Duke, Mr. Herbert Robertson, and Mr. Mildmay; to be read a second time upon Thursday, April 6th, and to be printed. [Bill 129.]

FALSE STATEMENTS (COMPANIES) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to False Statements with respect to the Financial

Position of Companies or other bodies," presented by Mr. Attorney-General; supported by the Lord-Advocate, Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, and Mr. Solicitor-General; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 130.]

SALE OF BUTTER BILL.

"To amend the Law with regard to the Sale of Butter," presented by Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes; supported by Mr. Gerald Balfour and Mr. Attorney-General; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 131.]

TRADE MARKS BILL.

Ordered, That the Committee on the Trade Marks Bill do consist of Mr. Blake, Mr. Butcher, Mr. Cripps, Mr. Eve, Mr. Fison, Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Sir Walter Palmer, Sir Charles Renshaw, and Mr. Tillett.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the Quorum. —(*Mr. Fletcher Moulton.*)

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR [EXPENSES].

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do resolve itself into a Committee to consider of authorising the charge on the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the Public Trustee or his officers appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee and Executor, and of authorising the payment, out of Moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries and other expenses payable in pursuance of such Act (King's Recommendation signified), to-morrow."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) asked for some explanation of the Motion.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire. E.) said the House was probably aware that this Bill had already passed its Second Reading. It was a private Member's Bill authorising the appointment of a Public Trustee, and great progress had been made with it in the Grand Committee, but further progress was delayed for the consideration of the money clause. He believed that the Bill would not ultimately involve any charge on the public funds, and indeed it might prove a source of revenue, but it was necessary to authorise the money clause: hence this Motion. Although he was making it in his capacity as a Minister of the Crown, he had no intention or desire to make the Bill a Government measure; but as hon. Members on both sides were anxious to pass it the Government considered that they should not be prevented by a mere technicality.

Question put, and agreed to.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[MR. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

Clause 1 agreed to.

Clause 2.

MR. McKENNA (Monmouthshire, N.) moved to insert, after "granted," the words "or proposed to be granted." He said he would not press the Amendment if the Chancellor of the Exchequer was able to give them satisfactory assurances concerning the point raised on the previous day—namely, that in consequence of the way in which this Bill had been drafted he would be bound to act illegally.

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Order, order! I think the Amendment unnecessary and therefore out of order.

MR. McKENNA: Do I understand you rule it out of order?

*THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: Yes.

MR. McKENNA: Then I must argue——

*The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: No, there can be no argument. I hold it is out of order because it is outside the scope of the Resolution on which the Bill is founded.

Mr. McKENNA: On the point——

*The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: There can be no discussion or argument on it.

Mr. McKENNA, as a point of order, asked leave to draw the attention of the Chairman to a precedent for his present Motion in the year 1902. On August 8th in that year, on the Appropriation Bill, an Amendment was moved by the hon. Member for West Islington to Clause 3 to insert the words "£20,000,000 at any one time," and that was certainly not in the terms of the Resolution on which that Bill was founded. It was allowed to be proposed, and he could quote precedent after precedent of similar Amendments having been moved.

*The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: That seems to me to be quite a different case. I adhere to my ruling.

Mr. McKENNA said he would be perfectly satisfied if the Chancellor of the Exchequer would give him the assurance he had asked for.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.) rose to reply, but

*The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: I still adhere to my ruling, and there is no Question before the House.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he thought he would now be in order in answering the hon. Member. The point of the hon. Member opposite—which he raised on the previous day—was that the words of the Act of 1891, which were intended to extend the legal power of the Treasury, had, in fact, a limiting effect, and that they prevented the Treasury from legally employing money voted, as on the present occasion under Vote 1 of the Navy, on the feeding of the Navy until such time as the Victualling Vote had passed through the Committee and been reported. That was not the case. The illegality the hon. Member feared did not arise, because Section 15 of the Exchequer and Audit Department Act, 1866, provided that the issues for Army and Navy services should be made under the general heads of "Army" and "Navy" respectively. The issue was made for the Army and not for any specific Vote, and no illegality arose in applying it to any particular service of the Army Estimates.

Mr. McKENNA said he would like to point out to the right hon. Gentleman that his construction of Section 15 was not accurate, and he would refer him to Clause 4 of the Appropriation Act of last year, in which an express provision was introduced in order to enable the Comptroller and Auditor-General to sanction payments in respect of the Army which had not been specifically appropriated. Such a provision would have been entirely unnecessary if the view now stated by the right hon. Gentlemen was correct. As a matter of fact, as no money had been voted for the Army and as only Vote 1 for the Navy had been voted, the right hon. Gentleman could not legally do more than use the money of Vote 1 for the Navy and could not use any money at all for the Army. The words in the Act on which he relied were—

> "Every sum issued in pursuance of this Act shall be applied towards making good the Supply so granted at the time of such issue."

These words clearly limited and defined the powers of the Treasury, and they were in an Act subsequent to the Act on which the right hon. Gentleman appeared to rely. All he desired the right hon. Gentleman to do was to introduce words in the present Consolidated Fund Bill instead of in the Appropriation Bill in August, legalising at once that which he was now illegally doing.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) suggested that the words "granted at the time of issue" were sufficient to cover any subsequent Votes, and that was all the Chancellor of the Exchequer wanted, as he was going to get Vote A and Vote 1 of the Army as soon as possible. But if there was a doubt about this matter, the doubt should be resolved not by a Committee of the House, but by the Comptroller and Auditor-General, who had been appointed by the House in order to see that every legal formality was fully complied with before he sanctioned the issue of one sovereign or even of one halfpenny out of the Consolidated Fund.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight) said that, by the admission of the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself, it was quite unprecedented to have a Consolidated Fund Bill which did not include any sums voted for the Army specifically.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he never made any admission of the kind. What he stated yesterday was that, so far as he was aware, Army Supply had never been in this condition before. He had since had further inquiry made; and as a result he found that Navy Supply had been in exactly the same position before, and that in 1883, when hon. Gentlemen opposite were in power, not merely had there been no Navy Vote, but no Civil Service Vote either.

Major SEELY pointed out that the Public Accounts and Charges Act, on which they relied, was passed subsequently to 1883. He submitted that it was a direct violation of that Act, and that it was highly unconstitutional to use money which had been voted for the Navy for other purposes of the Army than those for which it had been specifically voted for the Navy. For the first time since the Public Accounts and Charges Act was passed, they had no money voted for the Army in the Consolidated Fund Bill, and the House should take cognisance of that fact, seeing how the principle of the control of the House was involved.

Question put, and agreed to.

Clause 2 added to the Bill.

Clause 3:—

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES moved to insert the following proviso—

"And the Treasury shall repay the moneys so borrowed, with interest not exceeding 5 per centum per annum, out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund at a period not later than the next succeeding quarter to that in which the said moneys were borrowed."

If these words were inserted it would restore the Act to its original shape. The form of this Bill had suffered an important change at the hands of no less a person than the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Before 1902 the Treasury had power only to borrow the money for three months. When, in 1902, in a moment of inattention he thought, the House permitted the Treasury to borrow for twelve months, it thereby quadrupled their borrowing power in point of time, and so added to the Unfunded Debt. He maintained that that added to their Unfunded Debt. It was true that the Chancellor of the Exchequer said that there was no more borrowing power, but there was only power to borrow for a longer time. That was, however, the whole point. Was it advisable that the power given in 1902 allowing the Treasury to borrow for a whole year instead of for three months only should be continued. He submitted that this was a time when the Treasury's power to borrow should be contracted in the most jealous way. The Chancellor of the Exchequer himself, when he made the Motion in 1902, said the borrowing powers had hitherto been exercised on the I.O.U. of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But now the money was obtained on Treasury Bills, and the power formerly exercised of borrowing on the personal I.O.U. of the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been quadrupled. He thought that that was very unfortunate. They had seen their debt increasing, and any powers given to Ministers in regard to money matters ought now to be more carefully watched and more jealously circumscribed than at any previous period of history. Already their Funded and Unfunded Debt and contingent liabilities had reached a total far beyond the dreams of any of their ancestors, and for that reason he earnestly begged the Committee to assist him in restricting the powers of the Treasury. His Amendment would restore the Act to its original form, and if it were carried he would have to move to leave out Sub-sections 2 and 3 as a consequential Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

> "In Clause 3, after the word 'powers,' to insert the words 'and the Treasury shall repay the money so borrowed, with interest not exceeding 5 per centum per annum out of the growing produce of the Consolidated Fund at a period not later than the next succeeding quarter to that in which the said moneys were borrowed.'"—(*Mr. Gibson Bowles.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there inserted."

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said the gravamen of the hon. Gentleman's contention that the Treasury's borrowing powers were, by the words introduced into the Act of 1902 by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol, quadrupled in point of time, might hold good if the whole transaction were as the hon. Gentleman had stated it. But the old practice was for the Treasury to borrow in the first three months of the year as much as was needed to finance the Exchequer during that period. Having paid off that sum, the Treasury then reborrowed it, together with an additional amount to finance them during the second quarter, and in the third quarter they reborrowed the amount they had borrowed in the first and second quarters, plus the further money they required. It would be seen, therefore, that the only difference of practice inaugurated in 1902 was that in the first quarter the Treasury were allowed to borrow there and then what they required for the year, instead of renewing their borrowings three times in the course of the year. It was, moreover, more economical for the country that they should be enabled to borrow on Treasury Bills in the market instead of being confined to borrowing for this purpose from the Bank of England. He hoped the Committee would consent to pass the clause in its present form. The only circumstances which, so far as he could make it out, would ever enable them to dispense with this power would be a reduction of the income-tax by 4d. or 6d. and that was a prospect which he did not think they were likely to realise in the near future.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee) asked was he to understand the submission of the right hon. Gentleman to be that there were certain financial advantages in making the loan for the longer period?

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that was so, and whatever Bills were issued for this purpose must be paid within the financial year. The real object of the proviso was to enable the Treasury to finance itself against the first nine months of the year, when the revenue was thin, and in anticipation of the great bulk of the income-tax, out of which the bills were paid, coming in in the last quarter.

*MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) hoped that the Motion would not be pressed. It was quite wrong to suppose that the practice under discussion increased the borrowing powers of the Government by sixpence.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: I never said it did.

*MR. McCRAE said the hon. Gentleman suggested that it increased the floating debt, but it did not even do that. It provided the Chancellor of the Exchequer with the power of borrowing on better terms by giving him greater freedom.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES suggested that the Chancellor of the Exchequer in one part of his speech gave away the other part. But although he held that there was substance in his Amendment he would not, by pressing it to a division, stand between the House and the more important business set down for that evening. He would, therefore, ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Clause 3 agreed to.

Bill reported, without Amendment, to be read the third time upon Thursday next.

SUPPLY.

Order for Committee read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.):

An hon. Member on the other side of the House, in the course of the debate some days ago, said that there was an indisposition on the part of the War Office to discuss Army questions. I can assure the hon. Member who entertains that opinion that that indisposition does not extend to myself. There is no Member of the House who is more anxious that all questions connected with the Army should be discussed, and worthily discussed, than I am, and consequently I welcome the opportunity which this debate affords me. I have presented to the House a Memorandum which sets out at considerable length what has been done and what has been attempted by the War Office during the past year, and I think it would be tedious, and I do not think it would be profitable, if I were merely to make a review of that document at the present time. I prefer rather to devote myself to a more general survey of Army questions. I have no commission to give advice or to make suggestions to the House of Commons; but I do venture to think the discussions which have taken place with regard to Army matters have not been altogether profitable, and have not been an evidence that the House has realised how complex and how important this Army problem really is. I have heard once or twice in the course of debate an aspiration with which I cordially sympathise, that Army discussions might be outside the lines of Party differences. How far that ideal is from being realised only those can understand who have been present, as I have been compelled to be present, during the whole of the debates on Army matters in the present session. I have no hesitation in saying that a great part of those debates was devoted to matters which, though they were of relative importance, were absolutely unimportant compared with the great issues that are at stake. I do not deny for a moment that there are hon. Members from whom I may differ who do occasionally come into contact with the realities of the situation; who do recall the fact that we are dependent for our national existence to a large extent upon the well-being of our Army and its maintenance in a condition which fits it for war. But these were rare intervals in the debate, which otherwise was composed almost entirely of mere details, of innuendoes and small matters of Party difference which had practically no reference whatever to the real question of the Army. I hope I may be successful in the remarks I desire to address to the House to-day in redeeming myself, at any rate, from the error which I have ventured to criticise.

I will ask hon. Members to bear with me while I speak about Army questions, as a whole, and to tolerate my failure to reply to those many matters of detail and Party differences which have so much occupied the House hitherto.

The position, I do not hesitate to say, is peculiar. I believe that owing to causes for which I am not responsible, and which I would have avoided if I could, we are in the presence of the precise state of things which hon. Gentlemen opposite desired should be created. I was criticised last session for endeavouring to hasten the accomplishment of certain changes which I thought desirable without taking the House fully into confidence. I maintained then and I maintain now, that it is not only within the competence but it is the duty of the War Office to proceed with the reorganisation of the Army as part of its ordinary functions, and nothing that I did or sought to do was in my opinion *ultra vires* at the time I sought to do it. But, as I have already told the House, it has been necessary to arrest progress in more than one important particular. I have explained why it is that owing to the large number of short-service men in the Army we have had to make a pause and to hold our hand with regard to the full accomplishment of the scheme which I had the honour to lay before the House last year. I do not think hon. Gentlemen opposite have any ground for complaint, because one effect of this delay, voluntary or involuntary, has been to give them the opportunity which I am glad enough to give them of discussing every proposal that I have laid before the House.

Now I have been criticised on more than one ground. In the first place because I have gone too fast, and in the second place because I have gone too slow. I should like to recall to the House some of the relevant dates in this matter. This is the first set of Estimates that I have had the honour of presenting to the House which

I have had anything to do with the framing of. It was scarcely seven months from this day that I laid before the House the proposals for which I desired its consideration; and any hon. Gentleman who supposes that great changes are to be made in the organisation of the Army or great reductions in the cost of the Army within seven months is greatly mistaken. I ask any hon. Member acquainted with the working of a large business whether, considering the character and magnitude of Army matters, the number of individual interests concerned and the gigantic sums involved, he really believes within a period of seven short months a great task of that kind can be undertaken and completed.

I have been blamed, and I suppose I shall be blamed, for not fulfilling a promise which I never made. I have presented to the House Estimates which no doubt represent a formidable sum of money. I have been told that I ought to redeem the promise that I would propose this year great reductions in the Army Estimates. I ask the House to judge between me and those who make that accusation. This is what I said when I spoke on this subject as late as July last year—

> "I shall be asked what about economy? I am not going to pledge myself to positive figures, but I will say that next year the economy will be very little indeed. You cannot deal with a great Army, in which every man is serving on an engagement, as if it was composed of men taken on by the day. You will have to meet your engagements. Practically the only way of economising to a large extent next year would be by stopping the manufacture of the new gun, or by stopping recruiting. Those are not expedients to which, I think, any one desires us to resort, but I do think that we ought to aim at reducing the expenditure next year, so as not to have any serious excess upon the Estimates of this year. But it is my ambition to lay the foundation for a scheme which will enable my successors to effect progressive economies in Army expenditure, and that I believe I can do."

I do hope if hon. Members feel inclined to repeat that accusation they will bear in mind those words. I have redeemed absolutely the pledge I gave. I believe that what has been done during the last year will make it easier for my successors to make progressive economies in the expenditure of the Army. I did not pledge myself to effect any large economy now. Hon. Members must not suppose that when a Minister makes a statement of that kind he makes it without reference to the figures. These figures were known to me *en bloc* and in detail, and when I made that statement I knew the probabilities and the certainties of the expenditure of this year, and it was a simple business calculation with regard to expenditure on the Army. It is not true that I promised large economies this year, but it is true that I expressed my belief that these economies could be effected, and it is true that I have made it easy for my successors, if they will follow the steps which I have indicated, to effect these economies in the future.

Now, I have been asked a great many questions in this House, and I am going for once to turn the tables and ask a few myself. We have heard this burning cry, this demand for economy on both sides of the House. It is a demand with which I entirely sympathise, and I shall consider that I have done something in my present office if I have made it easier for that demand to be fulfilled. I want the House to understand exactly their responsibility in this matter. If you are going to reduce Army expenditure you must reduce those things that cause the expenditure. The Army is composed of various sections. We have the Regular Army, the Militia, and the Volunteers. We have a large aggregation of units, and we have a large aggregation of individuals. I want to know on which of these particular items it is that the House has made up its mind that we shall effect these large reductions. [MR. GUEST: "The Regular Army."] I do not know whether that is the opinion of every hon. Member opposite, it is not my opinion, but I take that interruption as a warning to those who understand the functions of the Regular Army that there is a section of this House which demands large reductions in the Regular Army.

I am going to press this matter a little home; but before I do so I should like to make an explanation with regard to the line I have adopted. I have been accused of a burning desire for change for the sake of change. That is not the case; but is there any hon. Member in this House who will say change is not required, that great changes are not needed? I was for three years serving at the Admiralty. During that time I saw every single institution connected with the Navy changed. I saw a change in the *personnel*, and I saw a change in the *matériel*. I saw a change in the position and relative rank of the officers. I saw a change in the distribution of the Fleet, and I saw a change in the whole scheme of naval education. I saw a change in every branch of the Navy either initiated or completed during the time I served at the Admiralty. Why were those changes effected? Because circumstances had changed and things were bound to change with the circumstances. If any one will rise and tell me that the circumstances affecting the Army have not changed as completely as the circumstances affecting the Navy I shall be astonished, and will ask him where he got his information? I am no seeker after change for the sake of change, but things have changed, and the Army has to conform itself to the change which has taken place. What is the change?

In the first place there has been the enormous change which is illustrated by the expenditure upon the Navy. An hon. Member of this House not very long ago interrupted me and said when I mentioned the Navy that we were engaged in an Army debate. I said then, and I say now, that the interruption was typical of the absolute failure to comprehend the whole of our military problem. We have been adding million after million to our naval expenditure. Are all these millions wasted? Are they thrown away? If it be true, as we are told by representatives of the Admiralty, that the Navy is in a position such as it has never occupied before—that it is now not only our first line of defence, but our guarantee for the possession of our own islands—is that to make no difference to a system which has grown up avowedly and confessedly on the basis of defending these islands by an armed land force against an invasion? Is that to make no difference? Is this view some invention of my own imagination? No, Sir; that is the deliberate conclusion of the Government, advised by a body which has been called into, I believe, a useful existence during the last eighteen months, and which I regret was not called into existence much longer ago—the Committee of Defence. The Prime Minister has already on more than one occasion given expression to his own views of the situation; and he has simply echoed what is, so far as I can ascertain, the view of every single naval and military authority of any competence whatever upon this question of invasion. He has said that the question of the invasion of these islands in such force as to inflict a fatal blow or threaten our independence is impossible. In that he speaks with the undivided and absolute authority of the Committee of Defence, and I want to know who is the hon. Member who is going to question it? Who is the hon. Member who is going to lay down his own authority and say, not that the present Government is wrong, but that the naval and military authorities, who, I believe, are unanimous on this subject, are wrong with regard to this question of invasion? I have seen this matter stated in various ways. I have seen it stated that, provided our Navy is efficient, the greatest anticipation we can form in the way of the landing of a hostile army would be a force of 5,000. I should be deceiving the House if I said that represented the extreme naval view. The extreme naval view is that the crew of a dinghy could not land in this country in the face of the Navy.

Well, I am going to press this matter a little further. I am going to ask hon. Members to follow out my reasoning to its logical conclusion. Is it true or untrue that this country, if the Navy be efficient, is open to an invasion in force? Because if it is, it has a very remarkable consequence. If it is open to an invasion in force, what have you to do? You will have to do what every other great country in the world which is exposed to a similar threat has had to do. You will not have to indulge in soldiering which, however excellent, is mere voluntary soldiering; to a certain extent amateur soldiering. You will have to submit to the hard conditions other countries have had to submit to. You will have to submit to conscription. You will have to put your whole trained population into the line of battle to resist the attack of the best-trained troops in Europe. That is the logical and certain consequence of accepting the theory that an invasion in force of this country is a possibility.

COLONEL BLUNDELL (Lancashire, Ince): What do you mean by an invasion in force?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have already given my definition of what I consider would be the maximum conceivable force that could be landed in this country, but I would say any force which might reasonably be expected to attack a great country of this kind. I will deal with that again; but I say, if you accept the view that an invasion is possible, we are not playing the game of looking the facts in the face; we are trifling with the facts. We are not exempt from the dangers and difficulties which beset other nations; we have to face under these circumstances the same peril that Continental nations have to face; and we must face it in the same way—we must adopt the same means to combat it. No one in this House proposes that or has ever suggested it. There is no Member in this House who does not know perfectly well that that is not our real danger. Suppose we eliminate for the moment that item from our consideration. Either the Navy is or is not able to defend us. If it is able to defend us, there will be and can be no invasion of this country. If it is not able to defend us, what is, again, the logical and certain consequence of accepting that proposition? The Navy *ex hypothesi* is unable to defend us. You might have the whole population of this country armed—man, woman, and child, from John o'Groat's to Land's End. You might have them drilled like the Macedonian Phalanx, and ready and anxious for war; but they would not prevail. If the hostile Power were sufficiently strong at sea to land 100,000 men in this country it would not be necessary for it to land the crew of a single barge. The invading Power would command the whole of the avenues of the sea. It would close the Thames and Southampton Water, the Mersey and the Humber, and within six days this country would be at their feet. No, Sir, we must think clearly upon this matter; we must recognise that one or other of these hypotheses is true, and we must act accordingly.

We have done something to test this. We have had an object-lesson. I think it is very strange we have not had one before. During last year we had a landing in force on the coast of England. I wish sometimes hon. Members who discuss these matters from a purely Army point of view would try to realise them from a naval point of view also. I wish they had been with me and seen, off Clacton beach, eight ships of war and a number of transports trying to land 13,000 men—which they did in two days—and embarking them again in four days. I wish they had tried to picture, as I did, what would have happened one hour after dark, with the Medway flotilla of destroyers fifteen miles in one direction and the Harwich flotilla of destroyers fifteen miles in another—with these great men-of-war and transports swinging at anchor. I do not think I misinterpret the belief of any single officer, naval or military, who has thought of this question when I say that there would not be a single one of those ships at anchor or upon the sea next morning. Either this is true or it is not. I ask the House to accept the conclusion one way or the other. Both conclusions cannot be right. If we are really open to an invasion in force by a great Continental army we must prepare for it. If we believe we are right in expending this enormous sum upon the Navy, I think we may consider the Prime Minister is right and that we are relieved, at any rate, from the contemplation of that particular danger.

I said that other things had changed, but I have not enumerated all the things which in my opinion have changed. We have had it laid down by the Prime Minister on behalf of the Government that the principal duty of the British Army is to fight the battles of this country across the sea. Across the sea can have but one meaning I hope—it can only mean fighting in those parts of the world where we have our own frontiers to defend against any possible threat—because I hope and think we may eliminate the idea that we are going to enter into competition with the great military nations of the world in Continental warfare. If that be so—if it be true that our problem is to find an Army which is to fight on our own frontiers in the event of war—are we or are we not going the right way about to furnish that Army? Is there any change in the threat which we have to contemplate? No one will doubt there have been very great changes. There have been changes which have made our situation more dangerous. There have been changes which have made our situation, for the time at any rate, less dangerous. But to suppose there has not been change, and that there has not been need for a closer and more perfect organisation for our transmarine force, is absurd. We have demands made from India for a definite supply of troops, and it is on those demands the War Office has been working, and that the War Office ought to work. We have to supply a certain number of troops for the defence of India in time of war, and unless we supply them we are in this dilemma; either we must deny that these demands are legitimate, or we must admit that we ourselves fail in one of the primary duties which fall upon the War Office. We are, I believe, successfully endeavouring to fulfil these demands. But I do want the House of Commons to understand that in order to fulfil them there must be, so long as these demands hold good, great demands on the Regular Army of this country. And I would point out that these great demands must be the demands of war, not the demands of peace. That seems a truism, but it is not altogether a truism. We are the only country in the world which has to keep up in peace time a great Army on a war footing. We keep up, at the present time, an Army, larger than the standing army of many other countries, entirely outside our own shores, in peace time. In order to do that we must have a certain nucleus of Regular troops at home in order to furnish a body which will enable us to establish a circulation between the troops at home and the troops abroad. But when the troops at home and abroad have been furnished, there is undoubtedly a certain portion of the Regular Army which for peace purposes may be regarded as redundant. You may, I am convinced, supply your purposes with a smaller fully-organised Army than you now have.

But for war purposes the Army is not nearly adequate for the purposes of that demand. How are we to reconcile these two demands? My view is that the logic of the situation is inexorable. If we are really to meet this demand at all, upon any sound basis, we must look at these facts. We must limit our Army which is kept on a war footing in peace time to the needs of our own peace requirements. We must have something, in addition to that Army, which will enable us to expand with great rapidity and certainty in order to fulfil the much larger demand of war when war comes. Have we any example of how that end may be achieved? I think we have. We have just seen great changes made in the Navy. We have seen the Navy concentrating its *materiel* and *personnel*; we have seen those ships which are inefficient and useless for war laid up and put on the scrap heap; we have seen those ships which are required for training purposes in time of peace fully manned and equipped; and we have seen those ships which are not required in time of peace, but which will be required in time of war, laid up with a sufficient organisation to enable them to go to sea in time of war, and with a nucleus crew which can rapidly be augmented. That seems to me a correct analogy which we ought to follow with regard to our Army. That is the principle of the change I propose, and that I believe is the principle upon which any Government must proceed if they are going to provide for the needs of the Regular Army abroad, and to achieve some economy in our Army Estimates.

Now I will venture to ask the House of Commons one or two Questions to which, no doubt, I shall receive various and varied replies. I may be right, or I may be wrong, in my appreciation of the line which should guide this or any other Government; but my view is this. We want an Army adequate and adapted to our needs, and we do not want anything in excess of our needs. We want reduced cost by getting rid of what is redundant. Now, if we are all agreed upon that, as I think we are, I will ask hon. Members, in the discussion that will follow my remarks, to apply that doctrine and test to all the remarks they make, and to ask themselves whether what they advocate—whether it be in regard to the Regular Army, or the Auxiliary Forces, whether it be horse, foot, or artillery, *materiel* or *personnel*—to ask themselves if what they advocate is required to meet our needs, and if it is not wanted do they acquiesce in our being committed to the expense. If they do not, then a great deal of the lecturing I have heard, and a great deal of sound economical doctrine falls to the ground. If you are not ready to try all Army matters by the test of their value in time of war, then you are trifling with the subject, and your advocacy of economy may be set aside.

If, then, it is desirable to effect reductions in the Estimates, I may be asked how are the reductions to be made? Are we to cut down Line battalions?

Mr. GUEST (Plymouth): Hear, hear!

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The hon. Member for Plymouth says "Yes," and I think I do not misinterpret the hon. Member for Oldham when I include him among those who say "Yes."

Mr. CHURCHILL (Oldham): Hear, hear.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: He drew a picture the other day, or he sketched a plan of what he conceived to be the proper policy in the interests of economy. He said, I think, "Get rid of the regimental colours, sell the regimental plate, break up the battalions."

Mr. CHURCHILL said he was explaining that there necessarily would be a reduction of units, and the right hon. Gentleman himself was disposed to take away some twelve battalions.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, the hon. Member must allow me to say I am not inventing a fiction.

Mr. CHURCHILL said he was representing the difficulty of carrying the right hon. Gentleman's scheme into effect, that he would have to disband battalions, in which case the colours might be got rid of, and so on.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I accept the explanation, and with the more readiness because I am going to say something as to which we shall not widely differ. The second paragraph of the hon. Member's remarks is not a correct description of what I said or desire. It is true I told the House of Commons that I was willing that fourteen of the most recently-formed battalions, which had no great traditions, no great past, should be reduced, but on what conditions? On the conditions that they should be replaced at once by nineteen battalions having Regular officers and all the traditions of military service. It is not an accurate representation of what I said to suggest that I desired to reduce battalions. But what I was going to say is this. The hon. Member for Oldham is perfectly right as to the logical consequence of a reduction of Line battalions. That it would give immediate relief, and allow a saving no one can deny; yet I will venture to say that no more disastrous or more uneconomical policy could be pursued. Why? Because the moment you go to war you have to confront a situation such as we recently had in South Africa, you have to look around for officers. You take off fourteen Line battalions and at a stroke you cut off 400 Regular officers from the Army. Men you can get when the country is threatened; but to take the course suggested would be to fly in the face of the experience of every country in Europe. I venture to say the course I suggest is a wiser one. If we are bent on economy, we should reduce those battalions of the Line which are not immediately necessary for our purpose in time of peace to such an establishment in regard to men and pay as will give us economy in recruiting, as will enable us to form a large and growing reserve, which will enable us to effect real economy in peace time consistent with efficiency and the power of expansion in time of war. I am sure it would be folly to break up what we have already got in pursuit of an economy that would not be realised.

I have been, and no doubt I shall be, asked to speak about the

Militia. Hon. Members know very well, for I have never concealed it, that I take a view which is not acceptable to the whole of the House in regard to the Militia. I know very well that in a matter of this kind you cannot go much in advance of public sentiment. I know that no War Minister, even the most powerful, and certainly not the present War Minister, can hope to effect such changes as I contemplate unless he has the full sentiment of the country with him. That sentiment is not always as enlightened as it might be. Happily this country has been free during its history from the lessons of real war. We have never seen an invader on our shores; we have never gone through the bitter experiences of some other countries. And the result is that we take what I may call an amateur view of military matters, a view we should not take if we had had to bear the heavy burdens which have been laid on some nations who know what war really means.

Be that as it may, I accept, as the House is aware, what I believe is the feeling of the time in regard to the Militia. We have taken a full Vote for the Militia in the Estimates for the coming year, and we have introduced a Bill, which I hope the House will pass, to enable us to utilise the Militia in time of war. I recognise the readiness with which the Militia came forward and the good service they did during the late war, and I believe they would do the same thing again should occasion arise. But we must not deceive ourselves. One man in circumstances in which you can depend upon him may be more valuable for purposes of war organisation than ten men whom you may or may not obtain. The only object of creating the force is that it may be available for fighting purposes abroad. We propose that the Militia should be organised and dealt with as such a force capable of taking part in a campaign; and, accepting it as axiomatic that our Army is almost entirely for oversea service, it follows in logical sequence that the Militia to be an effective part of the Army should be available for service oversea. Therefore, I hope the Bill will pass, and I believe it is in harmony with the views of officers and men of the Militia.

But I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that more will be required than the passing of a Bill to allow the Militia to be sent abroad in time of war. The Militia at this moment are simply an adjunct to the Line. There are 35,000 men enlisted as recruits to the Militia in a single year, and out of a force of 90,000—and this will give an idea of the filtering of men through the Militia—15,000 pass into the Line annually. The Line is dependent, I was going to say, on the Militia for its recruits, and you must therefore be careful in treatment of the Militia to have in mind the well-being of the Line. It is my hope and duty to do all in my power to make the force effective. To do that involves expenditure. There must be extended training periods. No officer will pretend that with their present training the Militia can be expected to engage with success against well-trained armies. Therefore, we must have longer training and corresponding expenditure; and I believe that, within the limits of the present Estimates, by this expenditure on their preparation the Militia may be made more capable of good service in time of war. But they can only be made available if the House will reconcile itself to what is its obvious duty and will allow the War Office to reduce those battalions of Militia which are unable to subsist with advantage to the country, and to amalgamate others which are too weak to form a proper unit according to the interpretation of modern warfare. We will do all that we can, with the consent of the House of Commons, to make the Militia force what the House of Commons has a right to demand that it should be made.

But it must not be forgotten that we may come to a point when one of two things will happen. Either you will demand too much from the Militia, or you will give too much to the Militia. If you demand too much from the officers of a voluntary force, and if you demand too long a service out of a period of twelve months, you will at once transform the character of the Militia, and you will have something which is not a Regular force, but which is very far removed from the voluntary force which the Militia now is. Or, on the other hand, you may have this result—you may make service in the Militia more attractive than the service of the Line and that would be the most dangerous development of all. At the present moment, 15,000 men are passing every year out of the Militia into the Line, and all those who know, as I know, the inner side of these transactions, know very well that for every 15,000 would be added many thousands more if the physical development of the men allowed them to be passed on. If you make the Militia the more attractive avenue for recruits not only will you withdraw from the Line the 15,000 men now going into it, but you will withdraw many men who now enlist in the Line, but who, under these circumstances, will find it preferable to enter the Militia.

We have arranged, in accordance with the desire of the House, to do what we can to improve the quality and increase the efficiency of the Militia. [An Hon. Member: What do you propose?] I have already told the hon. Member what we propose. It is that we should, in the first place, obtain from the House of Commons permission to utilise the Militia abroad in time of war. We shall then have to see what effect that liability has on the officers and men of the Militia. I do not think anybody here can exactly prophecy what the effect will be. We should then have to carry out the proposal I have adumbrated of reducing or amalgamating the inefficient units of Militia. We shall then have to lengthen the period of service of the Militia, and so by these measures in combination—the concentration of units, the prolongation of the period of training, and the liability for foreign service—we can produce a force which, in the opinion of those most competent to judge, will be easily available for the purposes of war.

But we have had some lessons on this matter of late. We have had the lessons of the Japanese War; and if there is one lesson pre-eminent above all others, it is that quality far more than quantity is the factor which produces success in modern warfare. I am not going to stand up in this House and contend that the Militia, or any other force, will really be effective for the purposes of war unless we have in its ranks officers and men who are in the matter of quality, in the matter of physique, in the matter of *morale*, and in the matter of training, the equivalent, and more than the equivalent, of the officers and men against whom they might possibly beemployed in war.

I come now to the proposal which I made to the House last session with regard to short-service enlistment. I have explained to the House why it is impossible at the present time to proceed with the concurrent enlistment for long and short service. I have explained that it is because it has been necessary to provide the Army with a nucleus of long-service men. Long-service recruiting must be continued for several months to come. When we have obtained that necessary nucleus it will be absolutely essential to reconsider the position. I myself have proposed, and certainly if I am responsible for this office at that time I will enforce the view, that it is necessary to provide for the purpose of making a reserve a short-service Army, enlisted on special terms. I cannot pledge the future for anyone except myself. [An Hon. Member: You are not speaking for the Government.] Yes, Sir, I am. What I was proposing to say was this. I was told last session that I was binding the country, pledging the country, to a change which the country might not approve. I give the House fair warning that when the time comes, if it is my duty and privilege to deal with this matter, that is the manner in which it will be dealt with. Nothing up to this moment has been done which will prejudice in any way the policy of anyone who may be called upon to deal with the subject and who may think that the method which I have proposed is not the right one. Nothing has been done, nothing has been attempted, which can or will interfere with the liberty of anyone to carry into effect, if he can, a wiser and better system. I believe—and I think I can prove to the House that the necessity which I believe to exist will prove to be a real necessity to everyone who deals with this problem, and that the moment any one finds himself face to face with the facts and figures which I have found myself face to face with, he will come to the same conclusion as I have—that you cannot on a long-service basis alone furnish a reserve adequate to the demands which will be made upon us in time of war; and that if you want to furnish and maintain such a reserve, as I believe we all do, you must resort to some form of short-service enlistment.

SIR EDWARD GREY (Northumberland, Berwick): Will the hon. Gentleman define what he means by short service and long service?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have already defined quite clearly what my view is. I have made that abundantly clear, but I do not pretend that there is any magic about two as opposed to three years. What I say at present is that this matter is an open question to anyone who deals with it. I believe, because I have calculated this matter, that the periods I have recommended are those which will most easily conduce to the economy we desire, and to the creation of that reserve which is essential. But of this I am certain, that whoever deals with the question will have to face it as I have had to face it, and will have to consider the formation of a reserve concurrently with the economy which we all desire to effect.

I ought to say something, but at present I shall not, about the question of officers. The question of officers is being dealt with by an Amendment to be proposed by my hon. friend the Member for the Newport Division. To me it is a most important question. It is a question which has been engaging the ceaseless attention of the Army Council. It is a question on which an important and well-qualified Committee is now engaged. It is a question of importance in war time, but I prefer that I should reserve anything I have to say on it until it is brought forward by my hon. friend.

Nor do I desire to speak at length, or again, on the question of the Volunteers. I have made perfectly clear to the House what is my view with regard to the Volunteers, and I believe my view, in spite of all that has been said of it, is that of nine-tenths of the Volunteer officers of this country. [AN HON. MEMBER: No.] Well, whether it be so or not, I have a very large amount of testimony to that effect, and I would say this, that, after all, this matter is not one that can be decided only by Volunteer officers. I want the officers who do not take the view I do to answer me these questions. Are they prepared to take issue with me upon this point? Are they prepared to say that the Volunteer force as it stands, man for man and officer for officer, is at the present moment necessary for the safety and welfare of the country? [Cries of "Yes."] If they are prepared to say so, are they confident that it is organised and officered and equipped in such a way as to be able to render that service? I want these two questions answered.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight): Yes and no.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes and no! I hope we shall have a reasoned answer to these questions. It will involve a direct categorical negative to the proposition which I have advanced that the Navy is the first defence of this country. We have at the present moment in this country, apart from a Regular Army, apart from the Reserve, apart from the Royal Navy, apart from the Royal Marines, apart from all those who have served in the Army, Militia, and Volunteers, who can be relied upon to join the colours, we have no less than 360,000 men who are tied to the soil of the country in the time of war.

MAJOR SEELY: Do you propose to abolish them?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir, I do not.

MAJOR SEELY: Why not?

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have never expressed that view. I have expressed the view which I think is logical, consistent, and coherent, that we should consent to a reduction of that force in order to increase its efficiency. I want someone to categorically affirm that the maintenance of 360,000 men in a time of peace in this island, tied to the soil by law, is necessary for the defence of the country against any danger which may be reasonably apprehended.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): There were 150,000 who went abroad the other day.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: If the hon. Member will allow me to say so, I am not misled by that observation. I have observed an interesting tendency on the part of my hon. friend to meet me half way and to admit that the Volunteers and Militia are maintained, or largely maintained, for the purpose of meeting a foreign enemy across the sea, and he has pointed out that they are most useful for that purpose. I am the last to deny the service they have rendered during this last campaign, but I ask the House of Commons whether, if that is what we are maintaining the Militia and Volunteers for, we are pursuing the right process to accomplish our ends. Is there any other business in the world in which you would follow precisely the same course? If these troops are really to go abroad in time of war, would it not be better to arrange in peace time so that they might fall into their places in war? Would not it be well to have a certain number of officers on whom we could rely in time of war to organise their train, their transport, and equipment, and to arrange for this purpose on the basis of a foreign-going Army. That goes a great deal in advance of my own recommendations at the present time, but I do recognise that if my hon. and gallant friend will meet me half way, a great deal might be done, because I am confident that there is magnificent material in the Volunteer force.

Now, Sir, I trust that, in these discussions on the Army Estimates, we may at any rate endeavour to keep on the main lines of what is really necessary for the defence of the country. I was sorry the other day to see a departure, if I may say so, from the canon which I have ventured to suggest to the House in the person of Lord Rosebery. He took the most melancholy view of the present position of the War Office and of the Army generally, and he raised a most mournful wail over the impossibility of ever getting anything done which he desired to see done. That is not the way in which we must approach this discussion. It is perfectly true that the Army has to labour under difficulties which the army of no other country in the world has to labour under. I was told the other day that there have been only three chiefs of the general staff of the German Army in 100 years. To throw in my teeth the fact that that is not precisely a parallel to our own Army is not to make my path easier. If we are really in earnest in trying to get this matter right, and in trying to get an Army suitable to our needs, do not let it end in abuse, do not let it end in merely pointing out that this man or that man is incompetent. Let it end in some concrete, positive suggestion. Let it end, if possible, in some agreement between the Parties who are responsible for the government of this country. Nothing will be gained, I am perfectly certain, by confining our discussions on Army matters to purely personal or Party disquisitions.

I think I have a right to say that, however just these criticisms may be—I think they have been overdrawn and exaggerated. It is not given to the wisest, much less to the less wise, to do in seven months a great deal for the reorganisation of a great service. But I think I may fairly claim that the Army Council, of which I am a member, during the brief time in which it has administered the War Office has done something. We have, I believe, put the infantry in a position that is infinitely better than the position it occupied a year or two ago. We have introduced a scheme for the cavalry which, I think, is a most congenial scheme from the cavalry point of view, and is likely to promote the same efficiency of the force as in the infantry. We have also, as a result of careful inquiry, produced a scheme for the reorganisation of the garrison artillery, which, I believe, will diminish the cost and increase the efficiency of that important branch of the service. We have brought the Guards up to their full strength—they were lamentably below it. We have co-operated with the Royal Navy both in our inquiries about matters which concern both services and the execution of common duties side by side on shore and on shipboard. We have taken a step which I, at any rate, for years have hoped might be taken—we have handed over to the Navy the aquatic defences of our naval ports. That is an accomplishment which, I believe will be entirely in the interests of both services.

We have made progress which, despite some of the criticism which has been directed against myself and the Department, is, I believe, genuine and rapid—progress with the new gun, of which the country will see proofs in a very few days. We have completed our reorganisation of the War Office and the administration of the Army at home on a basis which, I believe, will commend itself to those who have to work the system and conduct the work of that office in days to come. We have doubled the Intelligence Department. We have put our finger on one of the blots which were disclosed by the South African War, and we have reorganised the veterinary department of the Army. We have also made substantial additions to the medical staff of the Army, and we have commenced the construction, too long delayed, of the great military medical college in London. We have made some progress with the withdrawal of battalions from the Colonies. Finally, we have placed under the guardianship of the Government of the Dominion of Canada the great Imperial fortresses which are situated in that country, and it is a great pleasure to me to be able to say that the Dominion Government has undertaken to bear the cost of that important portion of our Imperial defences.

For the future we are introducing two Bills which I hope will meet with the favourable consideration of this House. I have already alluded to one of them—the Militia Bill. We are also introducing a Manœuvres Bill, which is of the most vital importance to the efficiency of the Army. I do not think that is a very bad record for a very few months of administration under somewhat difficult circumstances.

I have been made the subject of attacks—it may be that most War Ministers, until the ideal Minister comes, will be made the subject of attack, but I am not greatly moved by those attacks, and I shall not be greatly moved until I find a greater consensus of opinion amongst those who attack me. I find I am dealing with at least six armies. I am dealing with the Army in India, the Indian Army, the Army at home, the Militia, the Volunteers, and the great army of those who have left the colours and are now entrenched in the clubs of this city. I am not sure that the last army is not the most destructive, the least patriotic, and the least helpful of all the six. But there is one circumstance which is common to all these great armies, that those who belong to them and those who take a special interest in them regard these great divisions of our national organisation as quite independent of each other. That is my difficulty. That is, I am certain, the difficulty which must confront every Minister in my position—the absolute want of comprehension on the part of some persons in this country of the essential unity of our military forces. There ought not to be any essential opposition between any of these great branches—except the last—in our Army. But there is no doubt that it exists; and it finds expression in this House. It is one of the most perplexing and one of the most disheartening features of the debates in this House that we find Member after Member getting up and speaking with great conviction, some knowledge, and a desire to do his best for the country—solely in the interests of one branch or section of a branch of the forces of this country. Unless and until there is some community of thought and action these difficulties will remain. But they are not essential difficulties. They must be got over, and until they are got over we shall not have the Army which we desire.

I have not much more to say. I believe that in the proposals which I have made to the House and which I am perfectly ready to discuss, I have behind me the bulk of the Army, and I believe I have on my side the true interests of the nation. Let hon. Members remember that this is not a problem with which I am personally called upon to deal and from which they are exempt. My problem is their problem. It is the problem of every Ministry that will ever sit in this House. My difficulties will be their difficulties. I am not going to prophesy; that would be a far too presumptuous thing to do; but I venture to express a belief that when this problem is studied in the light of modern conditions, as I have been compelled to study it, those who are called upon to deal with it will substantially come to the same conclusion that I have come to, that they will be guided, as I have been guided, I trust, by one thought alone, that is, the necessity for providing an Army with one qualification, and one only—namely, fitness for war and fitness to succeed in war.

Let us have done once for all with this demand for hurry. I may be blamed and scolded, but this is not a matter to be accomplished in seven months. I venture to say that any Party which can in seven months or fifteen months produce the same results in the right direction as we have produced will have something to congratulate themselves upon their success. The hon. Member for Oldham has said that the tide is rising that will sweep away the work that I and the Army Council, of which I am a member, have accomplished. Well, Sir, there are some things that we have constructed which no tide will sweep away. There are other things, I fully admit, which it will be within the powers of any one who succeeds me to sweep away. But I do not admit that any one who has the true welfare of the Army at heart will be very desirous of sweeping away any portion of our work, unless and until he has prepared as a substitute something which his conscience and his knowledge tell him, and his experience confirms him in believing, is certain to produce better results than that which he destroys.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I think it is usual on these occasion, when a Minister makes his speech before the House goes into Supply, that we should proceed to discuss the various Amendments which are standing on the Paper, and defer to a subsequent opportunity the general criticisms and discussions which must arise on the statement of the Minister. I think that that is an excellent arrangement, and I am bound to say, as I have often found fault with other arrangements, that in the arrangement of business contemplated by the Ministry on this occasion they have contrived to give us practically the whole Government time next week for discussing this question. I am glad of the liberal interval, because I think it was M. Talleyrand who said he advised people always to distrust first impressions. I will not associate myself with the reasons which he gave for that advice. It was that first impressions are generally honest impressions. But the advice in itself was sound and useful. I must confess that, although the right hon. Gentleman has made a most able statement, and has explained what we always knew existed—his strong and earnest desire for the improvement of the Department over which he presides—we acknowledge that whether we agree with him in his methods or not he has not furnished us precisely with that which it was most important, in my opinion, the House of Commons and the country should have.

The right hon. Gentleman devoted at least three-fourths of his speech to an exposition of his own opinions—of what he would do, what he contemplated doing in the future, the view that he takes of different parts of our military system. But what we want to know now, especially after what has occurred, and knowing as we do the great activity the Cabinet has shown in these matters, is the opinion, not of the right hon. Gentleman, but of the Government. It was quite a relief and pleasant change when, towards the end of his speech, he began to recount what had been done by himself and his colleagues at the War Office in certain administrative matters, and when the pronoun "we" appeared in his speech for, I think, the first time, the right hon. Gentleman turned on the unfortunate Members of this House and asked them a number of puzzling conundrums. To a certain extent he was right; but, after all, those conundrums do not take the first place. The questions that are most important are those that ought to be addressed to the Government themselves. The right hon. Gentleman said that we wanted not vague ideas, but concrete and positive suggestions. Where are the positive and concrete suggestions in the statement of the right hon. Gentleman? On the main questions—and I will take the three which have excited interest in the country—of the future of the Militia, the future of the Volunteers, and the future terms of enlistment—we have received no assurance whatever. The right hon. Gentleman has put off these three questions, but especially the last one, on to the back of the unfortunate person, whoever he may be, who is to be his successor.

I notice the singular fact that throughout his speech he never talked of what he would be able to do in another session. It was not what he hoped, on another occasion, to be able to do when the confusion that had been undoubtedly created by the drafts for the foreign Army which had put the whole question of enlistment and recruiting in a confused condition was over, but he saddled that on his successor.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I said that if I was responsible for the conduct of this office next year I should certainly carry out the scheme I had laid before Parliament.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Are we to understand that the Government approve of the scheme of last year? That is precisely one of the things we wish to know; and I hope that, before the beginning of next week, the Government will have made up their mind, one way or the other, on that important question. The right hon. Gentleman's proposal was a home Army entirely short service, the shortest of short service, and another Army, which is of long service, to serve abroad. Have the Government accepted that proposal? I am not speaking in any captious spirit. I am merely expressing what I am sure is the feeling of all those who have followed this controversy, and I hope that next week, at least, we shall have more information and more light than we have at present on this question. The right hon. Gentleman said we must not be in a hurry in these matters—that seven months would not be enough, and that seven years might not be enough. That was not the impression he gave us a year ago. He was very much in a hurry himself. He went down to the country and told his audience not only exactly what ought to be done but what were the difficulties in his way and that he thought he could get over them. The right hon. Gentleman has this merit, that he is not lacking in confidence in himself. I say that without any intention of saying anything derogatory of the right hon. Gentleman. But he says now that we are not to be in a hurry.

Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The right hon. Gentleman has quoted something of what I said. But I think I also said on the same occasion that this might take twenty years to accomplish.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: But last year we were told that the Army was in a perilous condition and that it was a danger to the State. In what respect is it less a danger to the State to-day than it was twelve months ago? I think the right hon. Gentleman will have to give us a little more explanation —I have no doubt he will—on these large questions next week. In the meantime, I am not disposed to enter further upon the discussion, because I think it is more in accordance with our usual practice and with the interest of the question, that we should defer further discussion until next week.

*MR. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said he desired to move the Motion standing in his name with reference to the necessity for increasing the number of rifle ranges for Volunteer corps. For many years they had heard in the House and in the country of the necessity for providing further rifle ranges for Volunteers. Personally, he had known the Volunteers for forty-five years, through his father's connection with the force and also through his own; and during the whole of that period he had always heard it urged that the Volunteers had insufficient ranges for the purpose of carrying on necessary practice in shooting. The recent Report of the Royal Commission on the Militia and Volunteers also pointed out the necessity of ranges and exercise grounds being provided at the cost of the State. Was it not, therefore, time that the House seriously took up this important question, and settled it. They all knew the importance which was attached to shooting during the South African War. They were told by the most eminent military authorities that the Volunteers had performed most excellent service to the State during that war, and had shown an example which the Regular Army might well have followed. Lord Roberts stated that his experience had impressed him that unless a man was an expert in the use of the rifle, both at short and long ranges, he would be of very little use in modern warfare. That was testimony which they could not afford to disregard; and it was in itself an ample excuse for calling attention to this most important question. One of the reasons why it was more important now than ever before was because of the highly increased range of the modern rifle. They had heard that the Boers made excellent practice at 1,500 yards, and could hit a convoy at 1,700 yards; he believed the new short rifle was sighted at 1,500 yards; yet a recent Return showed that the great majority of the Volunteer rifle ranges were only 200, 300, and 500 yards in length. Therefore, it would be impossible to adopt Lord Roberts' advice with a rifle sighted at 1,500 yards on a 200 yards range.

There were, he knew, increasing difficulties in getting long ranges owing to the objections of landlords and others; but if the State were in earnest these difficulties could be overcome. If a railway company required a piece of ground a mile or two in length it very soon got it, although it was generally in a most populous part of the country, whereas the most suitable places for rifle ranges were in the less densely populous parts. The Marquess of Huntly in another place recently stated that a Volunteer battalion in Northampton found a suitable range on his own property; and although he regarded it as a nuisance, he did not think it right to stand in their way. But when he went to the War Office they would only offer a third of the value. All honour to the noble Marquess for having given expression to this view. The landlords generally alleged that a range would interfere with their sporting rights. These rights might be valuable; but the safety of the country was more valuable; and he thought that patriotic landowners ought to give away a small portion of their sporting rights for the good of the State. If they refused, the House ought not to have any hesitation in compelling them to give up the necessary land. There was a typical example of the difficulties in the way of Volunteers in the case of the Northumberland Fusiliers, who had their headquarters at Newcastle-on-Tyne. The range at which they had to practise necessitated a railway journey of ten or eleven miles and a two mile walk afterwards. When they got to the range they usually found that owing to two regiments being encamped there it was occupied by Regular soldiers, or also by a Militia battalion. Above all, there was a right of way across the range which created a further difficulty, there being sometimes a wait of a quarter of an hour between each shot fired. It was perfectly obvious that in the face of difficulties like these it was impossible for the Volunteers to obtain that efficiency at which they aimed. If the Government desired to make the Volunteer efficient in the limited time at his disposal, the best way was to make him an efficient shot. He did not think the country agreed with the right hon. Gentleman that there was no fear of an invasion; disasters might happen to warships, and in any event we should have some force on which we could fall back when the Regular Army was engaged abroad as it was in South Africa recently. If they had the opportunity, the Volunteers were anxious to qualify and become efficient, they were prepared to give their time, but they were not prepared to sacrifice all their leisure time in attending ranges where it was impossible to carry out the practice they so much desired. The Government should seriously consider this matter, and see that the powers vested in the county and borough councils to acquire land for the purpose of providing ranges were put into force, and to insist on ranges being provided in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

He trusted the right hon. Gentleman in his endeavour to get efficiency instead of numbers would not sacrifice the Volunteers. In the Volunteers they had men of the greatest intelligence, and when it was remembered that this magnificent force was obtained for about £1,200,000 a year, the cost of a single ironclad, it must be admitted that the country obtained a remarkably efficient force for a very little money. They must also remember that the Volunteers went to the front in time of peril in South Africa in large numbers and fought for their country and did their duty well. If partially trained troops had to be sent abroad in the future he would far rather see the Volunteers sent out than men such as those to whom they had to pay 5s. a day and who were sent out to South Africa in the second detachment of the Yeomanry, many of whom had no practice whatever at rifle shooting. Parsimony was not true economy, and the time to prepare for war was during peace, and one of the best means of preparing for war was to make the Volunteers efficient and to give the rifle ranges which were necessary to obtain efficient shooting. He was sorry to see that the sum of £170,000, which was given for this purpose in 1901–1902 and 1903 no longer appeared on the Estimates. Surely if it was necessary to give this sum in past years it was equally necessary to give it now, and he therefore trusted that the right hon. Gentleman would reconsider the matter. He thought he had said enough to commend the Resolution standing in his name to the House. It was said that this country after Waterloo and the Crimea went to sleep. Do not let us commit the same error now. We had had a lesson in South Africa which we should take to heart. Let us not go to sleep on this matter, because in the future, whether we had to fight with savage, semi-savage, or civilised races, we might be satisfied that we should find them well up in shooting with modern weapons of precision. He therefore appealed to the House not to neglect the warning of Lord Roberts, and to give to the Volunteers the ranges which they now asked for.

Mr. PURVIS (Peterborough) said he associated himself with every word which the hon. Member who had just sat down had said. This was a question of great local and Imperial importance. There was at Peterborough a most enthusiastic battalion of Volunteers who were most anxious to do their duty, and who fought for their country in the Boer War. The position so far as they were concerned was that they could not get a shot at all unless they tramped many a weary mile to a neighbouring range. If Volunteers were of any use, then ranges were as necessary for them as the rifles they carried. If they were of no use, then supplying them with the rifles was an unwarrantable expenditure. He had been much surprised to hear that the Committee of Defence had come to the conclusion that an invasion of these islands was impossible. These islands had been invaded more often than any other part of the civilised world, and the Secretary of State would forgive him if he said that those who would not take lessons from history would not be very prudent in making provision for the future. He would not dwell on the invasions by the Romans, Danes, and Saxons, and early invasions, but would merely point out that, in 1066, William of Normandy invaded this country and completely changed the whole course of English history. In 1066 William of Normandy landed at Pevensey and remained there many weeks. In 1688, William of Orange invaded these islands and changed the course of English history. In 1745, England was invaded by Prince Charles Edward, and the course of history was nearly changed again. In 1797 1,400 Frenchmen were for many weeks at Fishguard in Pembrokeshire. In 1798, 12,000 Frenchmen invaded Ireland, and were there for three or four months. In fact, these islands had been invaded oftener than any other civilised country. It was no doubt true that science had made a revolution with regard to means of defence, but who would say that science had not also made a revolution with regard to means of attack and invasion by sea? He did not wish to enter into any controversy, but it was perfectly absurd for hon. Members to talk of this country never having been invaded. There had been one revolution which could not be denied, and that was the revolution from the old battalion and automatic method of drill. Individual initiative was now the great point that had to be obtained.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that this point, as well as the hon. Member's interesting historical review, is rather remote from the question of whether there ought to be more rifle ranges.

Mr. PURVIS said he was about to speak of the necessity of sharp-shooting, which, he believed, was germane to the Motion. The time had gone by when a battalion would march up in line until they could see the whites of the enemy's eyes, then fire a volley point blank, and finish off with the bayonet. In these days individual initiative was everything, and the Volunteers, if they were fairly dealt with, might be supposed to equal, if not to excel, the automatically drilled Regular soldiers. If individual initiative was necessary, sharp-shooting was necessary, and to attain sharp-shooting rifle ranges were required. He had pleasure in seconding the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'that' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words 'in order to promote and increase the efficiency of the Volunteer Force, it is necessary to provide an additional number of rifle ranges easily accessible to the members of the different corps'—instead thereof."—(*Mr. Renwick.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

*SIR LEES KNOWLES (Salford, W.) asked whether the Secretary of State for War could make a statement with regard to screen ranges. Two or three years ago Lord Roberts made certain speeches in the country in which he advocated the establishment of screen ranges. In one instance Lord Robert's suggestions were adopted and a screen range was made from plans circulated by the Hythe authorities. While not desirous of pressing the right hon. Gentleman as to a matter still *sub judice*, he would be glad to know the view of the War Office with regard to these screen ranges. Reference had been made to long-distance shooting. In his opinion it was far more important to have for the Volunteers a large number of short-distance ranges than to have a few long-distance ranges. A range of 200 yards was quite sufficient for teaching the Volunteer recruit how to handle his rifle, to aim, and to shoot, and such ranges were extremely valuable if they could be secured near large centres of population. For instance, Salford had a population of 230,000. It was extremely desirable that for such a population there should be a near and handy range for the convenience of the men, to save their time and money. His own Volunteer battalion, in which there were about 1,600 men, had no range nearer than Crowden, and consequently the men could go there only on Saturdays, and in order to shoot they had to spend the whole of Saturday afternoon at the range. That was a great hardship upon the officers and men; it not only took up the whole of their Saturday afternoon, but it entailed also great expense upon the corps. If they could have a 200 yards range nearer headquarters they could make use of it on fine evenings during the week, thus saving time, and obviating very considerable expense. In this connection he thought the War Office might take into consideration the cost of travelling to and from the ranges. It would be in the interests of the Volunteers that they should have free transit to and from the place of shooting.

With regard to screen ranges, they were constructed with a series of screens between the firing point and the target. The bullet passed through apertures, and, if properly aimed, struck the target. If the bullet went out of its course, it struck, say, on the first screen, went through the woodwork of the screen, struck a concrete screen a foot or two behind and fell down in the aperture between the concrete and the wooden screen, and so was prevented from causing injury by getting off the range. He believed the fault that had been found was that occasionally a bullet struck the ironwork at the edge of the aperture and then ricochetted. He would like to know whether the authorities at Hythe, or the right hon. Gentleman, could tell them whether the difficulty had been obviated, and whether the screen ranges were still being advocated or made. He also wished to know how many of these ranges were in existence. Since the range to which he had referred was ready for use some eighteen months ago, he had had communications from several Volunteer battalions asking for information about screen ranges. He had given them the information which he had now given to the House. He did not know what the War Office had done, but he believed that several of these screen ranges had, in consequence of that information, been stopped. He certainly wished to support the Motion made by his hon. friend. He thought that the Volunteers, certainly as regarded shooting, deserved every encouragement. Some of the best shooting had been done by Volunteers, and though a large amount of money had been spent in years gone by on Volunteer ranges, he thought that if further money could not be expended, the War Office should, at all events, make an attempt to provide more ranges or greater conveniences for the Volunteers. The subject was one of great importance, and it was worthy of the consideration of the Committee of Defence. He would like the right hon. Gentleman to make some statement as to the views of the Hythe authorities and the War Office, not merely on Volunteer ranges in general, but on screen ranges in particular.

MAJOR SEELY agreed as to the great desirability of having more such ranges as had been referred to if they could be obtained, but pointed out that they were extremely expensive, especially the long ranges. The matter to which he particularly wished to call attention was an unfulfilled promise of the Secretary of State for War. It was, doubtless, very difficult for the right hon. Gentleman to provide all the ranges that were really essential if the Volunteers were to be efficient, but he could easily provide assistance for those rifle clubs which enabled Volunteers to learn how to shoot. The hon. Member for Newcastle, who had pointed out that the Boers were extremely good shots at 1,500 and 2,000 yards, would be interested to know that the Boers did nearly the whole of their practice at 50, 100, or, at most, 200 yards. Short-range shooting had proved both in theory and in practice to be extremely valuable in teaching men to shoot at all ranges. That being so, he submitted that these rifle clubs, of which there were fourteen in his constituency, were doing a genuine piece of national work. Last year the right hon. Gentleman promised definitely that he would give a grant to these clubs, but this year he refused to do so. Now the time had come for the money to be spent, and the amount was so small that it could not be refused on account of the expense, because some £30,000 or £50,000 was all that would be required. Last July the right hon. Gentleman promised to put an annual sum at the disposal of rifle clubs provided they came under the regulations in such a way as to make them a reasonably effective contribution in time of war. In consequence of that statement he asked the rifle club with which he was connected to communicate a memorandum to the right hon. Gentleman stating that they were prepared to fall in with any suggestion with which they could possibly comply. They had had a perfectly definite promise and the House had a right to ask why that promise had not been actually carried out. He trusted the Secretary for War would be able to give a satisfactory reply.

*MR. ERNEST GRAY (West Ham, N.) said that every member of the Volunteer force would be grateful to his hon. friend for having brought this subject under the notice of the House. It might be that there was a wide difference between the large problems put forward by the Secretary of State for War and this comparatively small detail, but if the right hon. Gentleman wished to secure that efficiency for which he had pleaded so eloquently, then he must look after details of this description. It seemed strange that he should resent the adverse criticism, not to say ridicule, which was sometimes poured upon the War Office. The public regarded the Volunteer force as a body which, if anything, must be able to shoot straight, but when they realised that a large number of battalions had no opportunities of practising—or if they had opportunities they were so unsatisfactory that they were next to useless—it was not surprising that ridicule was poured upon the War Office. He happened to be associated with a Volunteer battalion, and the only place they had in which to practise shooting was an underground tunnel, a sort of enlarged drain-pipe about 100 yards in length. The light was so bad that it was almost impossible to see the sights on the rifles and the atmospheric conditions were positively injurious. Under these conditions they had to carry out their individual practices and collective firing. The money spent upon the musketry practice of this battalion would be next door to being wasted. It was absurd to imagine that they could get efficiency under such circumstances. It was not beyond the power of the War Office to secure that the great Volunteer battalions around London should be provided with ranges within reasonable distances of their homes. There were in the Volunteer force men whose lives were spent in the open air, of strong, sturdy physique, with eyes keen and nerves strong, who could be made into excellent shots if only they had proper opportunities for practice.

They ought to be told plainly whether the Volunteer force was really wanted or not. He wished the right hon. Gentleman would say what he thought about this force. Reading between the lines, he thought the right hon. Gentleman would like to say that the Volunteers ought to be abolished, but he dare not say it. If he did not think that they should be abolished, would he say what part they were expected to fulfil and what was the efficiency he was seeking to attain? If the Secretary for War put efficiency in shooting in the forefront, then he must provide an adequate supply of rifle ranges. These men were perfectly willing to give up their time. They asked for no payment and they were willing to make the necessary sacrifices, but it was quite beyond their power to supply their own rifle ranges. When the War Office did take up this question of providing ranges they went about it in such a leisurely fashion as to excite the laughter of other men engaged in similar work. He did not know how long they would be before they got a satisfactory rifle range for the use of East End battalions, but he had been told that the Royal Engineers were likely to take twelve months providing them with a rifle range. Whilst they were waiting, battalions were going to pieces, and not only was the shooting suffering, but the Volunteer force was crumbling away because it took the heart out of both men and officers when they realised that one of their main objects could not be accomplished. Many of the officers had gone to the trouble of organising competitions, but how could they carry them out upon an underground tube of the kind he had mentioned? He had mixed among the Volunteers very considerably, and right and left he heard nothing but loud complaints against the War Office for not seeing that the men had the opportunity of becoming efficient. The Secretary for War had pleaded for efficiency, and he had told them that they must increase the efficiency even if they reduced the force. In his opinion the very first step they must take to accomplish this was to provide adequate rifle ranges. He thought his hon. friend had served a great public interest in bringing forward this question, and he trusted that he would persevere until they obtained a clear and precise answer as to what the War Office intended to do with the Volunteer force in this direction, thus removing what was crippling the force, namely, the feeling of uncertainty as to the future which undoubtedly existed from the commanding officer down to the youngest recruit.

Mr. FREDERICK WILSON (Norfolk, Mid.) said he sympathised with the remarks of the Secretary for War, and more especially with those dealing with half pay. He wished, however, that the right hon. Gentleman had relied more upon the masses than the classes. The War Secretary had spoken of the magnificent material which he had behind him, but he apparently refused to use that material and preferred the soldier who cost the country £70 to the man who cost only £7 a year. Whilst the right hon. Gentleman might raise a fine Army of seven pounders he seemed to cling to the higher priced class. Last year he raised great hopes in the minds of men who were training themselves to shoot straight, without any cost to the nation. At that time he promised to devote £50,000 a year for the purpose, and in consequence of that promise many rifle clubs made their arrangements, only now to discover that they were not to have the benefit of that money. So far from Volunteers having received any encouragement whatever from the War Office, they had had obstacles put in their way. When the war fever broke out he thought they must have a rifle club in his district and he arranged at the War Office to be supplied with rifles, for which they paid ready money. They also paid for their own ammunition, and they were enabled to make a number of labouring men crack shots, but so far from the War Office giving them any encouragement they charged them with rent for the range. He had in his pocket a letter, received by the secretary of a rifle club in his district, asking what was to be done, as they had been threatened by the War Office to close the range unless the arrears of rent were paid. That was a threat held out to men who had paid for their rifles and for their own ammunition, and yet were threatened with the loss of the range if they did not pay the rent. He formed a short-range club in Norfolk, and they managed to get on without assistance until they were threatened that the Government would charge them for gun licences. He repeated that so far from receiving encouragement from the War Office they met with nothing but obstacles, and he asked the Secretary for War to give them a definite promise that, wherever possible, the rifle clubs should be allowed the use of Government ranges free of charge.

*MR. TUFF (Rochester) called attention to the inadequate accommodation provided in the Thames and Medway district for the Volunteers and rifle corps. In May last there were 1,400 soldiers to be trained in shooting, and there was only accommodation for some 900. The ranges which were provided were very dangerous, and men had been hit in consequence. He had been informed that these ranges were closed for three days last year. He hoped the Secretary of State for War would be able to do something in the direction of providing more ranges in that district.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said there seemed to have been a misconception on the part of some speakers, who were under the impression that the Army Council was indifferent to the question of ranges. That was an entire mistake. No one who had heard this not unimportant discussion would suppose that the Volunteers alone had no fewer than 996 ranges. It must be remembered that there were forty counties in England and thirty-two counties in Scotland. That number of ranges did not seem *prima facie* altogether inadequate. It was inadequate in the peculiar conditions under which many of the town and city regiments had to conduct their rifle practice. On the other hand, it must not be forgotten that natural conditions would prevail over any artificial conditions. His hon. friend the Member for West Salford had shown immense patriotic and public spirit in providing a range at his own expense for the Salford Volunteers. His work had been set aside, not owing to any want of good will on the part of the War Office, but owing to the fact that it had been proved to demonstration by high authority that the continuance of the range would be a danger to the people living in the locality. The hon. Member had asked him whether the War Office had satisfied themselves that protected ranges should not be available. His answer was in the affirmative. They had no right, in view of the report they had received, to continue these protected ranges, and if they existed they were not continued under the protection of the War Office. He was sorry that the hon. Member's work should have been thrown away. He thanked him for what he had done and for the good intention which he had displayed.

As to the criticism of the hon. Member for West Ham, he would say that he was not able to provide ranges for the whole of the class-firing of the Volunteers in the way suggested. It was a fact that with a rifle sighted up to 2,800 yards they could not allow people to practice shooting in such a way as to cause danger to the users of the highways. It was necessary, if the Volunteers were to fire, that they should be under restrictions, and the War Office did do what they could in this matter. Where the mountain would not come to Mahomet they had to bring Mahomet to the mountain. As hon. Members were aware, money was paid to the Volunteers for class-firing. It was desirable, he admitted, to have more ranges, but the fact was that a majority of the Volunteers were situated in great towns and it was impossible to get in the immediate neighbourhood of towns ranges which would satisfy the claims of safety. This was becoming more difficult day by day, and the War Office were finding themselves compelled to close a certain number of the existing ranges for reasons which would commend themselves to every man of common sense.

They were at present spending £200,000 on a range for the Regular Army, and in the past very large sums had been spent on Volunteer ranges. There were three things which stood in the way of providing more ranges. In the first place there was the question of money; secondly, at the present time the tendency of the House was not in the direction of additional expenditure; and, thirdly there was the law, which was not at all favourable to the State in this matter. He thought the law in relation to the purchase of land for purposes connected with the Navy and the Army was quite inadequate. He could only record his view that it was desirable that the law for these purposes should be strengthened.

The hon. and gallant Member for the Isle of Wight had somewhat unintentionally misrepresented him in referring to the subject of rifle clubs. When on a former occasion he spoke of the possibility of grants for rifle clubs, he did so, as in regard to all grants to the Volunteers, subject to one condition, and that was that there should be a reduction of the force, which would admit of money so saved being applied to increasing the efficiency of the force. He had never made any concealment of that view.

Major SEELY: You do not propose to give anything to rifle clubs.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that if he was to effect economy by reducing the expense of the Volunteer force it was impossible to anticipate that by spending money before the reduction had taken place. No one could be more desirous than he was to see a reduction effected, because he thought the numbers were excessive. He could assure the hon. Member that he was not in the least anxious to withdraw from any pledge he had given. He had said over and over again that he did not believe the House and the country would permit him or anyone else to come down there and ask a large addition to the Army Estimates at the present time, and if they were to do what they all desired to be done not only in regard to the Volunteers but the Regulars it must be done subject to the fulfilment of the condition he had stated. Last year thirty-three ranges were opened, and twenty-eight were now under construction for the Volunteers and Yeomanry only.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: Can you tell us how many were closed last year?

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said there were twenty-six. [A laugh.] The hon. Member smiled, but the two things had really nothing to do with each other. Ranges were closed because they were compelled to close them. He entirely associated himself with what had been said by the hon. Member behind him as to the value of short ranges, and he thought that progress must be made in that direction. He believed that any man who could shoot well at a 100 yards could be trained to shoot well at 1,000. It was necessary to have behind the target between 1,200 and 2,000 yards in order to have safety.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: We can give them Sheffield armour plates.

*Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said if his hon. friend would communicate with him in regard to any particular case he would consider it. It should be remembered that rifle clubs were not part of the organisation of the Army.

Mr. RENWICK asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Colonel KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) called attention to the dearth of efficient officers in the Army and Auxiliary Forces. He did not think he need dwell on the gravity of the situation as unfolded by the latest Returns. They were quite aware, from the lessons of the South African War, and also from the lessons of the war now going on in Manchuria, of the necessity of having a full complement of officers. The tendency of modern warfare showed that it was desirable, if possible, to have more highly-trained officers who were capable of initiative. It was also of immense importance that there should be in the country, available for any emergency, a considerable reserve of officers able to undertake on short notice the supervision of small bodies of troops. In regard, first of all, to the Volunteers, he wished to point out that there were no less than 2,763 officers short of the number required to efficiently officer the battalions. It might be that a reduction would be made in the total number of Volunteers, and therefore, there would be a reduction in the total number of officers required. Still, under any circumstances, it certainly stood out that there was a large deficiency, which was a drawback to the efficiency of the force being properly maintained. It was not for him to speak specially for the Volunteers, but he thought it was worth consideration whether there was nothing which could be done to get rid of this extremely awkward and undesirable state of things. Could anything be done by the Department to make the service more attractive, or could certain personal or social advantages be offered them? He noticed that a body representing the Volunteers lately passed a resolution in which they attributed the insufficient supply of officers to the uncertainty of the future of the force, and as to the obligations which the service would entail. Well, the uncertainty as to the future of the force would be now set at rest, and as to obligations, it was acknowledged that these should be made as clear as possible. That was essential to good administration in every way. He thought there had been a little lack in giving Volunteer officers that full meed of gratitude they deserved for all the time and money they sacrificed. Then, when a Volunteer battalion was in camp and the officers were called upon to meet the various liabilities of camp life, they should be paid rank for rank exactly on the same footing as officers in the same branch of the regular service.

The Militia was short of 943 officers, which meant that many of the Militia regiments must be inefficient. The chief and only remedy for that, in his opinion, was a closer and more efficient arrangement by which officers from territorial regiments could be interfused more readily than at present with the officers of the Regular regiments, or transferred from time to time from the one to the other. The Yeomanry were short of 338 officers. His own little experience of the Yeomanry made him think that it would be best to leave them to work out their own salvation. They were locally a very popular force, and attracted to themselves an excellent type of officer; and as long as they had at their head a commanding officer of territorial influence the regiments were extraordinarily efficient and brought to a high standard. In the Regular Army there was a deficiency of 225 officers—three in the Household Cavalry; fifty-three in the Cavalry of the Line; forty-four in the Foot Guards, 112 in the Infantry of the Line; and thirteen in the Army Service Corps.

Was there anything in the present system which prevented the Army getting the whole number of officers required? Possibly one of the causes was the new arrangement by which young officers had to go through a two years training instead of one at Sandhurst, while the accommodation for them had not been doubled. It was said that the standard of examinations had been raised so as to allow only the number to pass that could be accommodated at Sandhurst now. If that were the reason, the accommodation should be enlarged. Another cause was alleged to be that the expense was too great. That question had been discussed for twenty years, and a good deal had been done in the direction of relieving young officers of expense, such as in furnishing quarters and the mess rooms, and in other directions reducing the cost to young officers when they first joined. This matter should be carefully watched by the Secretary of State, and a stop put to anything like undue extravagance. Had the deficiency been caused by the conditions of service being made distasteful? In his opinion there had grown up a tendency to rather overdrive young officers. They were forced to go through too many courses of instruction and not allowed sufficient time to occupy themselves in their own legitimate pursuits. Although young officers should be encouraged to go through various courses of instruction, these should not be made into a special military treadmill. He would really recommend to the Secretary of State for War and to every commanding officer to try to arrange that every young officer, after his first probation, should have a legitimate amount of free leave every year. A man was always a better officer when allowed to get away for a certain fixed term in the year, to meet with his own people, and to afford him an opportunity to indulge in some legitimate sport. All that made him keener in carrying out his professional work on returning to duty.

But there was a more serious question underlying the deficiency of officers than all that. Were we, or were we not, by our present system, making the best use of the raw material for young officers of which there was a superabundance in the country? Surely there was something wrong in a system which allowed of such a deficiency on the one hand and such a superabundance on the other. People might say that, after all, the standard of examination was not very high; but if it were the fact that we were short of young officers, and that yet there were large numbers of the best sort of young men who did not go into the Army, then it must be because the latter could not pass the examinations. Could not the conditions of these examinations be relaxed? They had seen something of that lately in the Navy. One of the ablest and cleverest things which Lord Selborne had done at the Admiralty was the rearrangement of the conditions for the entrance of cadets into the Navy. That was common sense. There ought to be two types of officer in the Army. They wanted an abundance of keen, intelligent, highly-educated officers, who were equal to advancing to the command of a regiment or a division, and to undertaking all the highly technical work which was part of the duties of an officer of very high degree. They wanted that type, and should encourage it. But, after all, the number of men who could achieve high position in the Army was limited; and they also wanted a large supply of officers who would have the faculty of making their men personally attached to them; who would act as personal commanders; but who did not intend or wish to make the Army their profession for all time, although they desired to spend eight or ten of the best years of their lives in doing their work thoroughly and efficiently. The Army should have plenty of men of that type. At present there were a great number of vacancies which might be filled by officers of that stamp on not too exacting conditions.

He would suggest that the entrance to the Army should be thrown open wider on the understanding that a candidate who did not attain a certain standard should accept a commission on the distinct condition that it would only carry him up to the rank of, say, captain. They would get plenty of young men eager to accept. What would happen? There might be a period of active service; and in that case many of these officers would earn for themselves such a good name that not even the sternest reformer would think of turning them out of the Army, and would only be too glad of their services. Another percentage would gratify the ambition that would be aroused when they became British officers and would determine to satisfy the higher standard. These two large sections would qualify for further promotion, and prove themselves as useful as the officers admitted under the present system. Those who did not care to qualify to proceed beyond the rank of captain would pass out of the Army, having received a very valuable training. They would be the men who would form the reserve officers when, as during the South African War, the country would give anything for them. Surely, if there were a shortage in the Volunteers, Yeomanry, and Militia it could be supplied by the very type of officer who was perfectly willing to make himself thoroughly efficient and competent for so much service as he cared to undertake. Surely the Army should not maintain its present system when it was in its power to get any number of the officers wanted in this manner, and who could not be obtained under the present system. He would suggest to his right hon. friend and to those who were studying this important problem that they should recognise that it would be wise, prudent, and statesmanlike to make use of those willing to come in, and who were competent and able to render the service demanded by the Army. He would not elaborate the question, but he hoped it would have the attention of his right hon. friend and those interested in it, and that the supply to which he had referred would be utilised in the future.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. JEFFREYS (Hampshire, N.) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1905–6.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a number of Land Forces not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

*CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.) said he wished to refer to the question which had been dealt with by the right hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for the Newport Division of Shropshire as to the adequate supply of Army officers. He thought that neither the House nor the public realised the gravity of the situation, inasmuch as it not only affected the constant supply of officers in time of peace, but also the question of a sufficient reserve of officers in the event of war. It would be within the knowledge of the Committee that the Prime Minister had said that the only instance in which this country would be called upon to place a really large Army in the field was in the event of warlike operations on the North-West Frontier of India, and in that event it would be requisite to place an Army in the field out of all proportion to the present Army and to keep it supplied with an immense force of men. The late South African War was only a small war as compared with that which would take place for the defence of our Indian position. In the South African War they were obliged to take officers of all units, who were thoroughly unfitted to perform their duties in time of peace and still less in time of war. The question before the Government was whether they had taken sufficient steps to secure the needful supply of officers. The way in which the right hon. and gallant Gentleman suggested that the existing deficiency should be supplied was by lowering the standard intellectually and educationally in favour of greater physical power. He challenged the right hon. and gallant Gentleman to say whether officers in the British Army had ever been found deficient in physique. On the contrary, so far as physique and physical exercises were concerned, British officers were superior to officers of almost any other Army in the world. They had been found to have a lesser standard as regarded general education and intelligence. That was not his *dictum*. It was the statement of such distinguished soldiers as Lord Wolseley, Lord Roberts, Sir Ian Hamilton and Sir William Butler. The result was that they got into the Army during the war a number of men who under normal conditions could not have entered it. Sir William Butler drew attention to the fact that a number of the younger officers were deficient even in the rudiments of education. A number of these officers were sent out to India, and Sir Power Palmer, the Commander-in-Chief in India at that time, had to point out the great loss of time and the expense of sending these officers through the garrison classes, their education being such that they were incapable of taking advantage of the garrison classes; and he was compelled to establish a preparatory class to educate the officers up to a standard so that they might be able to take advantage of those classes. From that point of view our officers were below the standard and wanting in elementary education. Sir Power Palmer declared at a public lecture at the United Service Institution that the average English public school boy was not fit for the Indian Army.

The Report of the Committee which sat to consider this question brought out three facts: first, that the standard of intellectuality and education of our young officers was below the mark; second, that we were hampered in our expeditions by the fact that our officers in this respect were inferior to those of any army of the world; and thirdly, that while the greatest efforts were being made to improve the intellectual training of every Army of the world we were taking very little trouble indeed to do so. The evidence before the Committee brought to light the fact that keenness in their profession in young officers was out of date; that to take great interest in his profession was not correct form, and the object of the young officer was to do as little work as possible. The blame for this did not lie entirely at the door of the young men who wished to become officers. It was admitted that we had the best material and that if that material was properly trained in the first instance our officers would not be as they were at present—educationally and intellectually below the average of the officers of other nations. A good deal of the blame lay at the door of our public schools. The tendency of a public school was to prevent a boy receiving that which was necessary if he was to become a British officer, namely, a proper grounding in history and English literature and such subjects as were taught at a different class of school altogether. Speaking as an ex-officer and a University prizeman, he desired to point out that the majority of the young men who came from our public schools, where they had been perhaps for five years, came with a smattering of Latin, a slighter knowledge of Greek, and without sufficient grounding upon which to educate a British officer. At the present time the officer in the British Army compared most unfavourably with the officer in the British Navy. The officers in the latter service entered earlier, and were specially trained in those subjects which bore on their profession, but the men who were turned into the Army had not the proper groundwork to commence with, and the senior officer could not be blamed for not training young men whose education left no foundation upon which it was possible to build.

If there was to be a constant and full supply of officers there were many ways of getting them. The first was to reduce the expenditure as regarded mess, and in the cavalry the cost of horse, uniform and equipment, but over and above that, if the right class of men were to be obtained, their calling must be made a profession. Enough pay must be given to enable the officer to live upon it. The officer in the Navy, after a very short time, was enabled to exist upon his pay; the officer in the Army, on the contrary, was compelled for many years to be a burden to his family. The reason that the officers of the Indian Army were in all respects superior to the officers of the British regiments was because they had adopted the Army as a profession, and after a certain number of years knew they could retire on a pension on which they could live. To obtain officers by lowering the standard of intellectuality and general education was absurd, because a large supply of officers of the wrong sort was almost as bad as no officers at all. The true methods of obtaining a suitable supply of officers was to give a proper rate of pay, to make the calling such that some importance attached to a knowledge of the profession, to give a proper retiring allowance, and not to force men who had shown themselves to be competent officers to retire at a time of life when they were fit for further service. He begged to move a reduction of 500 men.

Whereupon Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 220,800, all ranks, be maintained for the said Service."—(*Captain Norton.*)

SIR CARNE RASCH (Essex, Chelmsford) agreed with the remarks of the hon Member for West Newington with regard to officers' expenses, a subject which he thought was quite as important as the question of the new rifle recently brought before the House. The insufficiency of officers in the cavalry branch of the service was largely due to the unnecessary expense to which they were put, and the same remark applied to the Foot Guards. Unless the present system was altered, the Army would soon have to depend for its officers upon the class of men who had money but no brains. As the distinguished "Arthur Orton" used to say, "Some has money, and some has brains, but very few people have both," and the class with brains but without money was being worked out. The War Office must either reduce the expenses of the cavalry service or put up with officers who could not pass examinations, who were "the fools of the family," "numskulls," or "wasters;" they would have to take the son of the South African millionaire because he had a balance at the bank, and leave out the son of the country gentleman because he could not afford to serve in the cavalry. He did not mean to say that that obtained at present. He had a son in the cavalry, and he was certainly not a South African millionaire, but it was what would happen unless the system was altered. The Commission presided over by the present Home Secretary did a great deal in this direction. What they said was that the cavalry officers, who should be the eyes and ears of the Army, and on whom the safety of the Army and the country often depended, ought to be able to draw a good contour map, to speak one or two foreign languages, to write an intelligent letter, to shoot, and to ride. In order to get such men it was necessary to reduce the expenses of the cavalry service, and the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary certainly did his best in that particular. But while expenses were reduced at home, cavalry officers in India were treated very differently. Thus, to take two cavalry regiments with the same pay in the Army List and under the same direction of the War Office; in one the officer was given his chargers, in the other one was supplied and the officer had to pay £90 for the other; in one the officers were given their full salary, and in the other the War Office made them pay for their mess.

*MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Indian Government makes them.

SIR CARNE RASCH reminded the right hon. Gentleman that he had just said that he had to look after several armies, of which the Indian Army was one. Then as to the matter of dress. The extraordinary changes that were made, apparently for no other purpose than to increase expense, made it almost impossible for officers to live without some means in addition to their pay. Quite recently the War Office had altered the putties, sashes, sword-hilts, and stripes; but the most absurd Order of modern times was that an infantry officer should provide himself with a frock coat at a cost of eight guineas which could be worn only at Courts martial. That surely was an absurdity. When the greatest soldier of all time marched into Berlin in 1806, the study into which he was shown was littered with patterns of caps, swords, and tunics, and Napoleon said—

> "If the Prussian army had only been taught to fight as they have been taught to dress, I should not have been here."

The book of dress regulations for the Army was a perfect mine of information; he had never seen anything like it. Certain regiments were allowed to wear linen collars, others were not. Cavalry regiments were to have forty-two lines on their buttons, while infantry regiments had only thirty-two. What the lines were he had not the faintest idea. Certain regiments had three buttons on their waistcoats, others had five. Boots were to be made to fit the leg—not the arm it was to be observed! Officers were on no account to go into action in brown gloves. Sword hilts had been altered again and again. In Highland regiments they were to be of iron, in the Royal Medical Corps, of gilt; in the infantry, of nickel, and in the cavalry, of steel. What on earth was the use of all these changes and absurd regulations? They took one's mind back to the days of Thackeray, who wrote about a regiment, which he called "The Queen's Own Popinjays," and held the whole thing up to ridicule and contempt, as many Members would like to do now. He would suggest that the place of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Belfast at the War Office should be taken by the editor of the *Tailor and Cutter.* If they wanted to attract officers to the cavalry they must either reduce the expense or give them better pay, or else they would get an inferior class of men who could not and would not pass the examinations. He hoped hon. Members would not think that he had frivolously taken up the time of the Committee with these details and he trusted that the Secretary of State for War would give his attention to them.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he had listened with interest to the lively and somewhat caustic speech of his hon. and gallant friend opposite, and no doubt the Secretary of State for War would make a note as to the necessity of bringing about the reforms which had been asked for, and which, in his opinion, would be very useful. He thought less attention should be paid to details of this kind, and more attention should be given to those things which tended to make the Army a more powerful fighting machine. With regard to the Army Medical Corps he had not received anything like a satisfactory answer to the criticisms he had made and the questions he had put upon a former occasion. He rose on the present occasion in order to press for some explanation of the figures which the right hon. Gentleman gave when they discussed this question before. The Secretary of State for War told them that the Army Medical Staff had been increased by some 462 officers. He had looked with interest at the Estimates, and he found that the increase in the Army Medical Staff amounted to about fifty-two altogether, and he was, therefore, unable to understand the increase which the right hon. Gentleman referred to in his speech upon that occasion. He was glad that the Army Medical Staff had been increased by the numbers given, and that more money had been taken to make that department more efficient. He had no doubt that the right hon. Gentleman would carry out the policy of his predecessors and try to make the Army Medical Department what it ought to be in order to prevent disaster, and in order that they might be able to send a strong, vigorous, and healthy Army into the field. They had not yet attained that ideal, and as he had pointed out upon a previous occasion, if they studied the methods of the Japanese—who had taken our knowledge and applied it with great precision and minuteness, and had attained a success which no other army had every attained as regarding the health of its units—they would do a good day's service to the British Army.

He noticed that whilst the right hon. Gentleman was taking more money for the Army Medical Department for the military medical men and increasing their strength beyond the numbers of any year for years past, he was also taking more money than ever for civil medical practitioners. What was the reason for this? If they were having more Army medical officers why did they also want more civil practitioners? There must be some error or waste in one direction, or the other. It was claimed two or three years back that the normal amount required for the payment of civil practitioners would be about £16,500 per annum. Last year the Estimate was £36,000, and the other day they had an additional Estimate of £20,000, making for last year, with the Supplementary Estimate, an expenditure of £56,000 in one year for civil medical practitioners. That was an enormous sum, more especially when they took into consideration the fact that at the same time they had a larger Army Medical Staff than in any previous year. The hon. Gentleman who represented the War Office said the other day that the conditions in South Africa had something to do with this, for he stated that they required more of the Army Medical Staff in South Africa than had been anticipated. But surely that did not account for the fact that in every divisional command there was now almost double the sum required for civil medical practitioners. Whilst this kind of thing was going on he understood that they had Army medical officers looking after recruiting while the soldiers were being attended by civil medical practitioners who were also attending to their wives and children. There must be some disorganisation or some error in this arrangement. If they had more Army medical officers the best thing was to let them do the daily work of their profession. He believed that this was the result of a policy which had probably been forced upon the right hon. Gentleman by the Advisory Board, to the effect that he should not keep Army medical officers in small localities or towns and districts where there was little for them to do. It was considered that if they did the doctors would get rusty in their work. That might be true, but if so, how was it that in all divisional commands such as Aldershot they required more civil practitioners now than they did before, although they had a larger number of Army medical men than last year. Why was that? If they had civil medical practitioners doing certain work that Army medical officers ought to be doing, and if they were taking the Army medical officers from their close attention and relations with the troops, then they were doing something which was injurious to the Army. Work done for the soldiers would keep them up to their duty, and if the doctors were of the right stamp they would not get rusty, and then they would save this money which was now being spent upon civil practitioners. By putting the Army doctors to their proper duties they could save the country the £40,000 or £50,000 which was now being spent upon civil practitioners.

If there was any scheme in the mind of the right hon. Gentleman such as he ought to have in connection with the civil practitioners, he ought to be able to build up a reserve Army Medical Corps for time of war. He ought to have some system by which civil practitioners should be attached to the Army by engaging the services of the house surgeons in the various provincial centres, thus keeping up a connecting link between civil doctors and the Army Medical Staff, so that the War Office would know where to apply for the right kind of men to do the extra work required by active service. If the Secretary of State for War had to put two Army Corps into the field he would find that he had 40 per cent. too small a number of Army medical officers for that purpose. This was not a satisfactory condition of things, and it ought not to exist. He wished to have from the right hon. Gentleman some explanation as to how it was that his Estimate for civil practitioners was going up by leaps and bounds even when many more doctors had been included in the Estimates for this year. The normal Estimate a few years back was about £16,500; it was now £37,500. This increase coincided with an increase in the Army Medical Staff, which was greater this year than it had been for many years past. If the right hon. Gentlemen could give any explanation of these facts he would elucidate what, up to the present, had been to him a great mystery.

CAPTAIN JESSEL (St. Pancras, S.) said the shortage of officers in the Auxiliary Forces, and even in the Army itself, was a serious matter. The whole point in connection with that shortage lay in the fact that the amount of pay given to officers of the Regular Army was very meagre indeed. The shortage of officers in the Volunteers and Militia was due, he believed, to the hesitation which men had in joining these forces on account of the nature of the prospects held out to them. There was no doubt that the pay of the junior officer in the Army was inadequate in the changed circumstances of the present time. It was a very curious thing that there had not been any addition made to the pay of the junior officer for nearly 100 years. He would point out to the Secretary of State for War that there was no shortage whatever disclosed by the figures relating to the artillery and the engineers, the reason being that the officers in these branches of the service had special pay which made their emoluments much higher than those of the officers in the Line or the cavalry.

A great deal had been said about the expenses of the cavalry. These expenses had been very much cut down of late years, but it was still very difficult for men to join cavalry regiments which were serving at home. He would ask the Secretary of State when giving attention to this question not to make the regulations so stringent that it would be impossible for men without means to be in a cavalry regiment at all. In the past the country had derived considerable benefit from men who joined cavalry regiments and the Guards, and gave good service until they came into their estates and left the Army. If they were going to exclude a man because he was better off than his neighbours, he thought they would cut off a supply which was beginning already largely to dwindle in regard to the cavalry. One of the reasons why they did not join now was that the conditions of service in the Army were very onerous. In the first place the work was a great deal harder than it used to be. The amount of time given for leave and recreation was a great deal less. It seemed to him that they could not have it both ways. If they expected officers to devote more time to the profession, and if they diminished the amount of leave which they had hitherto enjoyed, the natural consequence was that the officers would have to be better paid. Otherwise the men would find another profession. So far from any improvement having been made in their pay, there had been, on the contrary, a serious loss suffered by the officers in the mounted branch through the diminution of their allowances. Formerly the junior officers had a forage allowance for three horses. Now that was cut down to an allowance for two horses, with the result that the officer was out of pocket to the extent of no less than £20 a year. As to the old colonels on the staff, he understood that their emoluments in future were to be cut down. They were going to be paid fixed sums, and nothing was to be allowed for forage, servants, or lodgings. That was a pity. The men were disgusted, and those who had looked forward to a higher position than that of subaltern officers, seeing the emoluments taken away, were naturally giving up the profession.

He understood there had been complaints as to the badness of the saddlery supplied to officers. He did not think saddlery of an inferior description should be supplied. There was also a complaint as to the inferior class of furniture provided for officers' quarters, and as to the charge which the War Office made for the hire of it being too large. Another point which weighed with men who joined the Army was that under existing conditions there was no security of tenure. By a stroke of the pen the conditions under which men entered the Army might be cancelled, and a new set of regulations might be introduced which would deprive them of the advantages they might have had. A man might be dismissed at a moment's notice without trial or Court-martial of any sort, and with no reason given. These conditions made many men very chary of entering the service. He would probably be taunted by the Secretary of State with being one of those who advocated economy in the abstract, but who, when it came to the practical details, asked for an increase in the Estimates. However that might be, he did not think they could have an Army of any value without professional officers, and if they had professional officers they ought to pay them accordingly. There were little distinctions in the various branches of the Army which were dear to the heart of the soldier. In a volunteer Army it was upon these differences that the popularity of particular regiments depended. One of the attractions which induced men to enter particular regiments was the uniform. Although all would like to see expenses reduced, it was impossible in a volunteer Army to entirely do away with an expensive dress. At the same time, in his own experience, it was not the initial expense for uniforms that was so heavy. When a man first joined he was provided with an outfit and, as a rule, that outfit would last him for many years. It was the changes made by the War Office that really made the expense. There was the old question of gold lace. In former days many of the mounted regiments had gold lace, and that had been changed to stuff; but experience had proved that the many changes in stuff were much more expensive than gold lace, but the stuff-ornamented uniforms had to be much more frequently used and did not wear so well.

There was another point to which he wished to direct the attention of the Secretary for War. No doubt many men who joined one branch of the service found, owing to changed conditions, that they would like an exchange to another section. The case in his mind was that of an officer in the Indian Army who came into a considerable fortune and did not want to continue to reside in India. He was a good officer and well reported on, but there was no means of exchanging from the Indian Army into a regiment at home. He thought that no impediment should be put in the way of enabling officers to exchange from one branch of the service to another. Then, many officers who retired with a gratuity after a war were not allowed to rejoin afterwards. All these things affected the question of the deficiency in the number of candidates for a commission in the Army. Again, he did not think the Secretary for War had paid sufficient attention to the reserve officers. At any rate the right hon. Gentleman had not given sufficient details. Many men who had served well during the late war now belonged to no corps at all.

Mr. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) said that two years ago great scandals had arisen in connection with the provision of remounts for the mounted branches of the service. He wanted to know what the Government were doing at the present time in regard to this matter of remounting. He undertook to say that if a war of a similar kind to that in South Africa were to break out, so far as the provision of horses was concerned, we should be in a worse position than ever in the horse-breeding districts of this country. Everybody knew that during recent years there had been a steady drain of good mares out of the country. The Government had done a little to encourage breeding by instituting prizes for remounts at local shows; but even in regard to that they seemed to have no settled convictions. He had had experience of these local shows, and thought that the plan of prizes for remounts was a very good thing; and he hoped sincerely that they would be continued. Every year there were from 500 to 700 mares of average age of eight years cast from the Army and sold—probably to run in hansom cabs or four-wheelers. He proposed that they should be sent to the market towns in the horse-breeding districts and sold to farmers on condition that they were put to thoroughbred stallions. Or they might be handed over to the Brood-Mare Society. He was quite sure that these would prove valuable means of securing good remounts. Of course the latter suggestion would involve the inspection of the books of the Brood-Mare Society, but he believed the society would not object to that.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that the scarcity of officers arose from the fact that the War Office wanted them to do more than they used to do, for the same amount of money. It was quite clear that they must be asked for more work; but the question among the younger officers was that they were being asked to do a great deal of useless work which did not improve their intelligence in any way. There was first a company course; then a battalion course; afterwards a brigade course and a divisional course, all followed by manœuvres, each repeating the work of the previous operation; and for the first seven or eight months officers and men were doing the same work over and over again. It could be very easily arranged that they should not be asked to repeat routine work; and in that way a good deal of work would be taken off the shoulders of officers and men and they might learn something more useful. He entirely disagreed with the suggestion that more pay should be given at the present moment. The right hon. Gentleman had got to make economies; the proposed economies were not sufficient; and if the present Estimates were not amended, there would have to be very severe amendments next year. A real reduction was necessary, and the sooner the Government recognised that the better for the Army.

The accounts which had been presented were rather misleading. The right hon. Gentleman talked about special accounts. There was an invasion of England in which the attacking and defending forces had been paid at a cost of £250,000 Then there was the sale of stores and other windfalls, and altogether the accounts of the Secretary of State appeared to be about £1,000,000 out. That was a very serious matter. The right hon. Gentleman had to reduce expenditure, not only because of the revenue of the country, but also in the interests of the future of the Army. He was quite sure that if the present expenditure went on there would eventually be such a large reduction as would seriously endanger the efficiency of the Army. It would be perfectly possible at present to reduce the Army by 10,000 men without reducing its efficiency; but the right hon. Gentleman only suggested a reduction in the case of the Volunteers and the Militia, which were the cheapest branches. Although the Militia were to be reduced they were to be given more training; and the number of men required would not be forthcoming unless they were paid more. The Volunteers and the Militia were valuable assets for the defence of the country; and if they were reduced to an insignificant figure there would have to be a considerably increased expenditure on Regular troops. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman had a theory that only trained troops were of any use; but the Militia consisted of men who could be put under military law in the event of an emergency, and who would be able to take the place of the first line. Surely, in any alteration of the Army consideration should be given to things that were useful while reducing more expensive items. Take for instance the new Intelligence Department. It was a very expensive item. Every one was in favour of a good General Staff; but there was an impression—he gave it for what it was worth—that it did not do the work it had to do. There was an impression entertained in military circles, and he believed also by some people at the War Office, that the efficiency of the General Staff was not what it ought to be. The Committee ought to have a definite assurance that this matter was not a mere paper scheme like the last.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Committee report Progress; to sit again To-morrow.

EVENING SITTING.

LONDON PORT AND DOCKS COMMISSION BILL [BY ORDER].

Second Reading deferred till Thursday, 13th April (Evening Sitting).

FISCAL RETALIATION.

*MR. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said he rose to call attention to certain proposals made by the First Lord of the Treasury, and to move the Resolution, "That, in view of the declarations made by the Prime Minister this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of fiscal retaliation." The Prime Minister had declared that he proposed to alter fundamentally the fiscal tradition which had prevailed during the last two generations; that he desired freedom of action in order to mitigate the injury done us by hostile tariffs by the employment of the weapon of retaliation; that he wished to check the importation of foreign goods which, because they were bounty fed or tariff protected abroad, were sold below cost price here; that he did not desire to raise home prices for the purpose of aiding home production; that a tax upon food was not, with public opinion in the state in which we now found it, within the limits of practical politics. The Sheffield, Edinburgh, and half-sheet-of-paper programme on which apparently the Prime Minister proposed at some time or other to appeal to the country comprised, therefore, a policy of retaliation which could not be effectively carried out until food and raw material were taxed, and a Colonial Conference to consider a policy of preference, to which again effect could not be given unless food and raw materials were taxed. The proposals of the Prime Minister were, therefore absolutely inconsistent and impracticable. Having placed this policy before the country, the representatives of the people in the House of Commons had a right to demand from the Leader of the House a definite statement as to how he proposed to give effect to his policy, and that right could not be diminished by any attempt on the right hon. Gentleman's part to ride off on the plea that the present House of Commons would not be asked to deal with the question. They required concrete examples as to how the right hon. Gentleman would proceed to mitigate injury done by hostile tariffs. The House was entitled to know whether the Prime Minister intended to ask Parliament to confer general powers on the Executive Government, or whether the sanction of Parliament must be obtained in each case? He could not accept the Amendment of the hon. Member for South-East Durham because that Amendment limited the condemnation of the fiscal retaliation proposals of the Prime Minister to simply so far as it was destructive of Parliamentary control over taxation. They could accept no such Amendment because they condemned the proposals of the Prime Minister and his policy of fiscal retaliation without any limitation whatsoever.

Were the Prime Minister in his place, and he craved the indulgence of the House in the somewhat difficult position in which the right hon.

Gentleman's absence had placed him, he would have asked him some questions with the object of eliciting a definite statement as to the way he proposed to give practical effect to the proposals he had made. Would he begin by imposing retaliatory duties on imports from the highest protectionist countries, the United States of America and Russia, because if he did he might point out that more than eleven-twelths of the imports from America consisted of food, raw material, or partially manufactured material for further manufacture. Indeed, America only sent us £10,000,000 worth of fully manufactured goods against which we exported to America not less than £15,000,000 worth of manufactured goods. Eleven-twelfths of our imports from Russia consisted of foodstuffs and raw material. We exported to Russia three times more manufactured goods than she exported to us. Would not both the United States of America and Russia, therefore, be in a position to hit us harder than we could hit them in any tariff war? How would he mitigate the injury done by hostile tariffs and bounty systems of our own self-governing Colonies? What would he do with regard to Canada? We received from Canada £23,000,000 worth of food, raw material, and partially manufactured goods. On the £10,000,000 worth of exports we sent to the Dominion she, after allowing us thirty-three and one-third rebate, taxed them no less than twenty and a half per cent. The present tariff arrangements with Canada were in her favour to the extent of some £2,000,000 a year; in addition to that she granted to her iron and steel manufacturers bounties to the extent of 2½ millions of dollars. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham protested loudly enough against the strangling of the sugar trade of the West Indies by the sending of bounty-fed sugar to this country, but no word of protest had been heard about the strangling of the iron and steel trades of this country by this system of Canadian bounties. In addition to that the British taxpayer bore the cost of Imperial defence, and Canada enjoyed the benefit equally with ourselves at no cost to herself. In regard to New Zealand and Australia the hostile tariffs were higher than those of Canada.

There were only two courses to be pursued; one was to allow absolute fiscal freedom to every part of the British Empire, and of that he quite approved, or retaliatory tariffs must be applied to our protectionist Colonies as well as to protectionist foreign nations. The Prime Minister asked for liberty to negotiate and for something to negotiate with. Parliament had full power of negotiation already. That was shown in the case of the Sugar Convention, and they knew the result of that interference with the freedom of trade, which was an object lesson if one were needed. The Government had full power in negotiating the Anglo-French Agreement, greater power, probably, than they would ever have again; but if that were considered from the standpoint of our commercial interests it was a most disappointing agreement. Not only did the Prime Minister acquiesce in the abolition of our treaty trading rights with Madagascar, but gave valuable concessions to France in Morocco and West Africa, and in return the Government obtained no increase whatever of trading facilities in any part of the French Empire. How would the Prime Minister prevent the dumping of foreign goods here below cost price? A uniform tariff on all imported goods would be protective and would apply to goods not sold below cost price, but if imposed on consignments sold below cost price, how would the Prime Minister detect them? Did he propose to fix a scale of prices for all articles? This would need revision, with every improvement in machinery, with every change in the rate of wages in any part of the world? That part of the scheme was totally impracticable; it was impossible to distinguish between goods which had been and which had not been dumped.

What had been the outcome of tariff wars between other nations? Lord Monson, in his Report on Tariff Wars between certain European States, said—

> "The results of the tariff war between France and Italy seem to have been as disastrous to the two countries engaged in it as were those arising from the war between France and Switzerland."

Then, again, they had the experience of Germany, whose negotiations of her new commercial treaties illustrated in a striking way the futility of the policy of seeking to break down tariff barriers by erecting them at home. Germany had negotiated seven new commercial treaties, and in only two of those treaties had she succeeded in renewing them on the old conditions. Germany had raised her tariff wall before entering into negotiations, but unfortunately for her the nations with whom she was to negotiate retaliated by raising their tariff walls, and the consequence was that in the case of five of the renewals Germany paid higher duties than she had previously to pay under the old treaties. Another investigation showed that while on 6 per cent. of her exports Germany had secured concessions on the old duties, on 46 per cent. of the exports the tariff had been increased. Were the Prime Minister present he would ask the right hon. Gentleman whether in his opinion the result of fiscal retaliation on the part of other nations had been such as to encourage us to embark on similar adventures. Tariff wars dislocated trade, caused widespread distress, inflamed international animosities, and left tariffs at the end much the same as they were at the beginning. Did protectionist countries using retaliation obtain more favourable terms from other protectionist countries than we did? Did not we enjoy in all markets equal terms under most-favoured-nation clauses? Was not the ability of protectionist countries to gain access to protectionist markets and great neutral markets, such as China and India, less than ours, owing to low cost of production arising from our system of free imports?

A policy of retaliation would, in his opinion, ruin the trade of this country. In 1902 the orders for finished iron and steel in this country required not only the whole production of pig-iron in the United Kingdom as well as the stocks on hand, but the importation from other countries of 1,500,000 tons of iron and steel mainly in a partially manufactured state. The great and most serious difficulty which confronted the iron and steel industry of this country was the alarmingly limited resources of iron ore and iron stone. The 1,500,000 tons of partially manufactured iron and steel which was supplied to us was largely supplied at a less cost than we could produce it at, and if protectionist countries like Germany and America, through their protectionist policy, made their own people pay a higher price and enabled us to purchase here at less than cost price, and enabled our iron and steel works to be fully employed, in his opinion it would be an absolutely fatuous policy to prevent the influx of such supplies by any system of fiscal retaliation. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham had said in 1903 that the British market was to be invaded by the dumping down of millions of tons of American iron and steel, but as a fact we had imported less from, and had exported more to, America in 1904 than we had done in previous years. That was another instance of the baseless prophecies of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. The shipbuilding trade depended for its prosperity on having cheap iron and steel, and it was due to our free imports that we could build ships 40 per cent. cheaper than any other nation in the world. It was on our policy of free imports that we had built up our great shipping industry, and it was owing to that that we were at the present time the carriers of more than half the trade of the world.

Retaliatory duties would inevitably increase prices and injure the home consumer; they would reduce the quantity consumed and increase the number of unemployed. If one trade was protected, how could similar protection be denied to all other trades and to agriculture? Would agriculturists allow every trade to be protected whilst foodstuffs came in free? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Sleaford, in a speech at the London Chamber of Agriculture in 1903, said with regard to the Government policy of retaliation—

> "There must be a general scheme in which agriculture as well as the manufacturing interests of the country must be considered."

He asked the meeting to—

> "make it perfectly clear that in any changes which are to be made agriculturists expect and are determined that they shall be taken into account."

This was the opinion of another great statesman—

> "As to the prospect of any return to protection in any shape or form, I think it is inconceivable that the agricultural interest would

allow manufacturers to be protected while food imports went free, and I think it is equally improbable that the working classes of this country will ever again submit to the sufferings and to the miseries which were inflicted upon them by the Corn Laws in order to keep up the rents of the landlords. If that is the programme of the Tory Party, we have only, in answer to it, to recall the history of those times when protection starved the poor, and when the country was brought by it to the brink of revolution. Remember the description which was given in the verse of the Corn Law Rhymer of the sufferings endured by the people and of the burning indignation the sufferings called forth—

> 'They taxed your corn, they fettered trade,
> The clouds to blood, the sun to shade,
> And every good that God had made
> They turned to bane and mockery,
> They knew no interest but their own,
> They shook the State, they shook the Throne,
> Oh, years of crime! The great and true,
> The nobly wise—now, not the few—
> Bid freedom grow where Corn Laws grew,
> And plant it for eternity.'

That is not a retrospect which I think would be favourable to any Party or any statesman who should have the audacity to propose that we should go back to those evil times."

Those were the words of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, spoken at the Eighty Club on April 28th, 1885. It might be said that that was ancient history. He observed, however, that the right hon. Gentleman, in the interesting correspondence between himself and Lord Salisbury, was, as usual, wrong in his dates. He made a quotation from a speech which he said was delivered by the late Lord Salisbury in 1895, but which was in reality made in 1885. The right hon. Gentleman said that Lord Salisbury approved of retaliation, but he concealed from us the kind of retaliation contemplated by Lord Salisbury, which was made clear in his speech of May 19th, 1892, when, referring to the use of the weapon of retaliation, he used these significant words—

> "We may fairly use our power over an importation which merely ministers to luxury in order to maintain our own in this great commercial battle."

This showed that he had not the intention of placing retaliatory duties on our imports of food or on manufactured goods, but only on luxuries.

There was no intermediate course between adhering to the present system of freedom of imports and the adoption of the policy of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. Retaliation was required, but it was not the sort proposed by the Prime Minister. We needed to retaliate by the adoption of an educational system superior to that of any competing nation; by the adoption of up-to-date methods and machinery in our manufactories, by a better knowledge of chemistry, by the employment of an increased army of experienced commercial travellers, by the reorganisation of our Consular Service, and by the employment of efficient trade agents in our self-governing Colonies, where foreigners had a Consular Service, and we had no trade representatives whatever. By those measures our commercial prosperity would be genuinely increased. Our commercial salvation depended on the maintenance in its entirety of our system of free imports, which enabled manufactured goods to be produced at a low cost. As a result of the policy of free imports our exports at the present time equalled those of the United States and Germany combined, though they possessed three times our population; and by that policy we were able to retain a predominant share of the trade of the great neutral markets of India and China. The policy of the Prime Minister was ignominiously rejected at the Southampton Conference, only receiving thirteen votes, yet subsequently to that the Prime Minister, addressing a Primrose League meeting, said, referring to his political leadership, that his task would have been impossible without the loyal and affectionate support which he had never been denied. Then came the letter of the Tariff Reform League of March 14th, which described the policy of the Prime Minister as a colourless production, and as the putting of a Departmental blunderbuss against a foreign Maxim gun, and continued—

> "We should say frankly and honestly that retaliation is damned; it is hopeless, viewed from any aspect, and the sooner it is dropped the better for the Unionist Party and for all concerned."

Then there was the situation at Greenwich, where the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham advised the starting of a tariff-reform candidate against the Government candidate. And yet the Prime Minister took it all "lying down." In his Sheffield speech the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "I have been asked to give a lead. I think that is a reasonable request. A man who, however unworthy, is called upon to lead a Party must lead it, and so long as I am in that position I mean to lead it."

If it was necessary to give a lead at Sheffield, how much more necessary was it on Wednesday night last, when the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was under consideration. The whole nation felt that on that occasion the Prime Minister displayed an unworthy lack of courage—["No"]—but to-night the House was confronted with a still more extraordinary political situation, when the only lead given to his followers by the Prime Minister was the recommendation to take a night out. Possibly the tariff-reformers had paired with the "half-sheet-of-notepaper" men. He hoped the Prime Minister was spending the night in meditation, and that, as a result, some beneficent influence would exorcise the evil spirit of retaliation which had possessed him too long. The House had witnessed many adroit manœuvres, subterfuges, and evasions recently on the part of the Prime Minister, but surely the climax had now been reached when he had found it needful to resort to the discreditable and un-English device of withdrawing the entire Unionist Party from the House—["No"]—to prevent its disruption. Attacked by a numerically smaller force, at the cry of "hands up!" they had capitulated bag and baggage. Was ever a great political Party placed in such a humiliating and ridiculous position? Perhaps the Prime Minister preferred to give further enlightenment to the House and the country by means of another shilling pamphlet. Whether that was so or not, his refusal to be in his place to meet and answer the criticisms levelled against the fiscal changes he himself had propounded was treating the House, of which he was the Leader, with contempt. The right hon. Gentleman had shown a lack of courage and of straightforward statesmanship, and a flagrant disregard of constitutional and Parliamentary traditions which the whole nation would deplore and resent. A blow had been struck at the dignity and efficiency of the House of Commons as a deliberative Assembly which would lower the whole tone of Parliamentary life. His conduct had confirmed the growing feeling that the policy of retaliation was never seriously intended, that it had been advanced, not as an honest and practicable policy for the State, but merely as an ignoble Party expedient, and it deserved the emphatic condemnation of all who had the well-being and prosperity of the country at heart. He begged to move.

*MR. MOULTON (Cornwall, Launceston): It would be difficult to frame a Resolution which I could feel more pleasure in seconding than the one now before the House, which, in perfectly simple and unqualified terms, denounces fiscal retaliation. I regret, for the sake of the House, that the debate is being carried on in the absence of the one Member who is responsible for agitating the country from one end to the other by the suggestion of this as the future policy of England. The withdrawal of the Government from the House on the present occasion cannot be defended. The withdrawal of last week might have been defended on the ground that the Resolution was directed against the policy of a private Member; but to-night the Motion impeaches the official policy of the Government, for which the head of the Unionist Party is certainly going to ask the support of his followers and of the country. It is the goal towards which he has represented himself as striving, and that he should think that the one place where even-handed debate is possible is the one place where it is prudent not to be present to defend that policy, shows that he realises that the triumph of last week over the fiscal policy of his—shall I say "colleague" or "rival"?—was only the prelude of what is to be the verdict of the House on his own. But to me the chief interest of the present occasion does not turn upon the conduct of the Government or its Head. It does not really matter who it is who has propounded the policy of retaliation. The whole thing is so hateful that one is almost glad to have an opportunity of publicly examining its nature and methods and of reminding the nation of the policy by which it has gained its greatness, and making clear to it what it is that is proposed should be substituted for it.

I refuse to deal with the question in a purely dialectical manner, as though I were a philosopher discussing the possibilities of one system or another in imaginary realms. The question is "what is to be the fiscal policy of England?" and in answering this it is necessary to consider from what we start. What is the United Kingdom now? It is a free-trade country, enjoying the advantage of the most-favoured-nation clause throughout practically the whole world. The result is that it is a country in which the cost of production is the smallest, which has accordingly unchallenged superiority in neutral markets and is able to base this its commercial superiority on no starvation or underpayment of its working classes, but on favourable conditions of labour and the payment of wages which I believe are higher in their purchasing value than those paid in any other portion of the world.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): Then what about the 12,000,000 starving people?

*MR. MOULTON (continuing): I submit therefore that this being the present state of affairs, we have a right to demand that, before the existing system is abandoned, the supporters of retaliation should show us "a more excellent way." What is that more excellent way? The proposal is that we should adopt as an integral, nay, as a fundamental part of our fiscal policy—retaliation. Tariff-reformers declare that the country is being ruined by hostile tariffs, and that fiscal retaliation, and it alone, can rid us of them. Let me examine for a moment the first of these propositions. Is it a fact that hostile tariffs do us so much harm? I have given considerable thought to the matter, and I doubt whether any more advantageous position is possible than that of being the one free-trade nation in a world where the great producing countries are protectionist. English manufacturers make many a bitter lament that the United States market is closed to them by hostile tariffs. But if the United States had taken up free trade twenty years ago, what proportion of trade in neutral markets would this country have had? The position of that great country in regard to the amount of its exports, with its genius for organising industry and production on a large scale, is pitiable as compared with the position of Great Britain, which in later years has not shown anything like the industrial genius of her transatlantic cousins. Why is it? Because the United States, having adopted the principle of inflating profits at the cost of the community by protection, is unable to compete with this country in cheapness in foreign markets. No doubt the adoption of protection by the United States has been an injury to the world in that it has cramped and fettered the production of that great country, thus making less the total amount of commodities to be divided amongst and enjoyed by the people of the world. But it has increased the fraction of the total production that Great Britain has enjoyed. It is a fallacy to think that we suffer a special and peculiar injury from the protective tariffs of the great producing nations. On the contrary, our free trade and their protection combine to enable us to produce at lower cost than our rivals, and under the working of the most-favoured-nation clause this gives us a commanding advantage over all of them in each neutral market, and over all but the home producer in each protected market. I therefore have a feeling of comparative content, in spite of the unwise laws, as I consider them, which different countries have made to prevent imports.

So much for the alleged wrong. Now as to the suggested remedy. What is to be done under this system of retaliation? We are not talking about insolent tariffs, things of the nature of the Berlin Decrees, where a foreign Power combined fiscal policy with national insolence towards Great Britain as a nation. Questions of that kind do not belong to fiscal policy, but concern the dignity of the nation. What we are dealing with is the case of a nation which, in the exercise of its undoubted powers as a sovereign State, has chosen to adopt in its fiscal system an import duty on certain subjects of commerce, pointed not at this country only, but at the whole world outside its own realms. No doubt such a duty handicaps us in that market as against the home producer, but every one of our competitors, with the exception of the home producer, is similarly handicapped thereby. But, if we object to the duty, how does retaliation help us to get rid of it? Are we to put a retaliatory tax on those goods? Nonsense. Those goods, by very hypothesis, were goods that we exported, not imported. Some other goods have, therefore, to be chosen on which to retaliate. What goods are those to be? They may, I suppose, be any goods, provided they are malevolently chosen. But when the tax is put on, against whom is it to be imposed? We cannot insult a nation by putting the tax only on goods coming from it; the tax must be imposed on all goods of that particular kind, wherever they came from, and so our great system of so-called justice would be inaugurated by punishing the innocent with the guilty, and making all nations which feed us with those particular goods bear a retaliatory tax which, even according to the theory of the Prime Minister, only one of them has merited. And who is it, after all, that we have punished? We have punished our own fellow-subjects by not allowing them to buy those goods as cheaply as they might otherwise have done, and we have not directly interfered with or hurt any foreign person. It should be noticed, too, that we have not even retaliated unless we have put on a protective tax. If the goods are goods that we cannot produce, the imposition of the retaliatory tax handicaps alike all the producers who send those goods to us, and by handicapping them alike punishes no one.

The only way in which retaliation can be effective is that the duties imposed should be protective, that they should be in respect of goods that we can and, under those circumstances, will produce for ourselves. Free-traders who are hesitating on the edge of retaliation should therefore remember that even on the contention of its supporters retaliation can only succeed where it brings with it the favouritism and corruption of protection. If we tried to make our retaliation more pointed, and were mad enough to put the tax exclusively on goods coming from one nation—which had done us no wrong as compared with the rest of the world—the consequences would be far more serious. Even if it did not resent the treatment as a national insult we should incidentally lose the advantage of the most-favoured-nation clause. This would bring on us higher duties on all sorts of other things, the retaliation in respect of which would affect a larger and larger ring of nations, and we should be in an embroglio the end of which no one could foresee. No. Retaliation is impossible in a free-trade nation. It is possible only if we begin by making the nation a protectionist nation, and then proceed to bargain with one nation and another to take off those protective duties in the hope that we shall induce them to treat us more favourably. That is the only possible method of working retaliation, and I ask the House to compare England as she now is with England as these retaliating tariff-reformers would make her. We have now the cheapest production, and we hold our markets by offering to other nations goods cheaper and better than they can be obtained from countries where prices are artificially swollen. To what should we then trust for our markets? We should have to trust to intrigue, treaties, and diplomacy, and we should no longer have the advantage of cheapness of production which has kept us so high above our rivals. And we should not use our new weapons well. As long as England retains her great qualities she will be beaten at the game of commercial diplomacy. I shall never forget a business man saying to me, in an injured tone, in reference to our rule in Egypt—

> "Sir Evelyn Baring ought never to be left there. Look here, representatives of other nations use political influence, but he will not; he leaves me to my merits."

So long as England has that sense of fairness which prevents her using political influence in the way other countries have too often used it she will always be beaten in the attempt to get by diplomacy the advantages which at present she secures by efficiency. Moreover, the advantages gained would be distributed by the Government among those trades which it had chosen to foster, and thus favouritism, corruption and every one of the other evils which free-trade Members opposite had denounced as following protection must come in with retaliation. It is idle for the Prime Minister to talk about using retaliation as a means of lowering hostile tariffs, and to say that in so doing he is not introducing protection because, if we threaten, they, like the coon in the story, will come down at once. The right hon. Gentleman has no such reputation as a dead shot, and he would find that he could not bring down Germany, France, the United States, and other protective countries by merely threatening to use his weapon, and if we once adopt protection even for the purposes of retaliation we cannot drop it again. If the Government used the weapon of retaliation, started protection, unnaturally fostered the development of trades, secured the investment of capital in those trades for national purposes and then proposed to go back to free trade, what would be the cry? The trades concerned would say, "You have used us for your national purposes; you have secured advantages for other trades by our investment of capital in the prohibited industries, and now you want to throw us over and leave us to bear our loss ourselves." How will you meet such a claim? Is this to be the "more excellent way" for which this country is to be asked to abandon the dignified independence she now enjoys with all its glorious success in the world of commerce? Are we to engage in the perpetual struggle with other nations, using as our sole arm the vile thing protection which takes from the whole nation and puts into the pockets of the favoured few? When the question of the Prime Minister's official fiscal policy is discussed in the country I believe the answer with regard to retaliation will be as sharp and as decisive as it has been in reference to the suggestion of protection.

Why is it that this thing, which is so impracticable, has become a matter imperatively demanding consideration? Purely because of the political exigencies of the moment. I remember that two years ago when the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham made his celebrated protectionist speech, I had just been reading a charming Japanese book on wrestling, where I learnt for the first time that the Japanese possessed a most magnificent school of wrestlers. They were well-nigh irresistible, and for this reason: they never opposed an attack; they yielded to it, and by yielding overthrew their opponent. For two years the country has witnessed an admirable wrestling match between the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, with his direct attack and strong intellectual muscles, and the far wilier antagonist who has upset him completely by yielding. No example of Jiujitsu—of "conquering by yielding" could be more perfect. We all remember how the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham propounded his present scheme of protection. At first it hardly went beyond colonial preference, then 10 per cent. duties all round to support colonial preference, then the pathetic appeal as to our dying industries, and so on. It was started at a moment when the Prime Minister had been giving forth some strong free-trade utterances and yet to the surprise of the country they found the Prime Minister agreeing and agreeing with the Member for West Birmingham in each fresh development of his protectionist policy, till at last, although he painfully parted company with him, it was only in the way in which one says good-bye to a comrade who is going to do a difficult work which home duties prevent one's doing one's self, with whom one has the deepest sympathy, and for whose success one offers up the warmest prayers. Protection had won all along the line! The Prime Minister had capitulated to the Member for West Birmingham. That was how it appeared to be at first—and certainly the attack was a strong one. It was not the first time the Member for West Birmingham had tried to get a relatively greater importance in his Party by starting new doctrines which he trusted would not be acceptable to his nominal leaders; he is a master at that game, he has met with hard knocks in it in the past, but this time, the extraordinarily rapid acceptance by the Prime Minister of all that he put forward must have made him think that he was going to have an easy victory. But he is on his back now! The result has convinced me that the Japanese are not only amongst the first military nations of the world, but are by far the most dangerous wrestlers. It was in the process of this wrestling bout that the suggestion of retaliation as our future fiscal policy was devised, and the more I ponder over it the more keenly do I feel how admirably it suited the position and the purposes of the Prime Minister. It has enabled the right hon. Gentleman to rule a Party composed of people holding diametrically opposed opinions. If he turns to the protectionists he can say, "What more can you want? I say retaliation must be introduced in order to stop tariffs which kill our industries. You point out that all our industries are dying, so that it is obvious that retaliation means universal protection." Then turning to free-traders he can say, "Retaliation is a thing of which we must regretfully contemplate the possibility. But I am not going to use it protectively; I will use it only where it is sure to succeed. So that protection will never be more than a threat. You as free-traders are able to judge how sure it is to succeed; if you think it will never succeed, you may be sure I shall never use it." In that way, while in form he condemns free trade, speaking of it as a fiscal policy which must be utterly reversed, he is able to treat it with the most extraordinary leniency in any and every concrete instance. He has never stated any one case in which he would use retaliation. The country has always been, and still is, left to conjure up fiscal nightmares in the hope of discovering what would induce the right hon. Gentleman to put his new system into operation. If, being an incurable lawyer, I may describe in legal phraseology his treatment of free trade, I should say that the Prime Minister has tried free trade, and found it guilty, but instead of passing sentence has bound it over to come up for sentence when called upon, which, as everyone acquainted with the effect of that legal formula knows, means that it was let off entirely.

That is the history of the introduction of retaliation into the arena of politics. It shows the reason this question has been brought up, and I believe that when the political exigency which made it needful has passed away, the talk about retaliation will pass away also. But at the present moment the language of the Prime Minister with regard to free trade is minatory in the extreme, the only redeeming feature about it being that he laboriously assures us that he does it all out of love for free trade. The Prime Minister describes himself as so devoted to free trade that he would sacrifice anything for it—even free trade itself. That was the position so far as he was concerned. That, however, troubles my mind very little, but what does trouble me is the attitude of certain public men of to-day with regard to it. I am not speaking of protectionists, because they are perfectly right in welcoming retaliation. The more utterly retaliation fails in its object and the more foolish it is proved to be as an expedient for maintaining free trade, the more rapidly will it lead to what they wish to obtain, namely, protection throughout the land. Therefore I do not appeal to them. They neither understand nor sympathise with the aims or the beliefs of the free-trader, and if they are prepared to face the injustice inflicted on the home consumer by protection, I cannot say anything that would move them either on ethical or economic grounds. But it is the free-traders who dabble in retaliation about whom I feel concern. They are rarely to be found on this side of the House but many of those who have most stoutly championed free trade among the Unionist Party have gone perilously near to accepting retaliation as a compromise. I sympathise with their anxiety not to break up the Unionist Party. I accept the doctrine that at times great sacrifices are made and ought to be made to preserve the unity of the Party because Party in England means disciplined action. But the fundamental principles of a Party determine its very identity and when these are attacked or tampered with there is no place for such sacrifice. Principles of that importance ought to be avowed and lived up to every moment. I know that the Prime Minister has frowned upon those who are hearty free-traders. It is perfectly true that belief in free trade is not considered a mark of disloyalty to the Party opposite; it is only the honest avowal and the courageous defence of those principles of free trade that is considered disloyalty. I do not forget or undervalue all that Unionist free-traders have suffered in this way. But nevertheless they ought not to countenance those subtle devices by which the Prime Minister has succeeded in maintaining his position at little cost, in fact with nothing but the trifling sacrifice of a few of his most loyal colleagues and supporters. The evil free-traders are doing in dallying with protection is immense. I know that they guard themselves in words, but in political life conduct is more important than language. No doubt they think they are doing little harm because they thoroughly believe that the thing is impracticable. [No, no!] Yes, it is impracticable in the sense that a mountaineer would call an ascent of a mountain impracticable, not because you cannot go up that way but that you will break your neck if you do. In that sense retaliation is impracticable to a nation. But it is not impossible that a mad Prime Minister, supported by a foolish Party, might some day plunge them into retaliation, and bring upon this country all the national disaster which that policy would entail. Retaliation is impracticable as a working policy, but not impracticable as a policy which a foolish Party might attempt to carry out. By allowing this policy to be talked of as possible without expressing their dissent free-traders in the Party opposite are gradually giving strength to the idea that England may look to retaliation for its success in the future and anything that turns the British nation aside from looking solely to its own self-reliance and its own industry for its future success is an evil and a danger to the country. By allowing retaliation to be talked about in this way they are gradually sapping the independence of the British nation, and what is going to be the consequence of it? The consequence would be that they would gradually lose that which had given them their great commercial position in the past. Great Britain has shown to the nations of the world that it can get the greatest security at home by giving the widest freedom. It has shown that it can get the firmest consolidation of the Empire by giving the greatest independence and the most perfect self-government to its units. What I ask is that in its fiscal policy you should also cling to the great traditions of England, and trust its commercial greatness to the solid foundation of the efficiency of its service to the world. Our huge markets are open without fear or favour to those who will sell the cheapest, that is to say, to those who will require of us in return the least sacrifice. We in our turn ask only that our goods should be bought because we offer them at prices which entail the least sacrifice to the buyer. In that way this country won its position, and it will keep that position if it is content to continue in the same path and undisturbed face the difficulties that arise from the fiscal expedients of others, and not attempt to get acceptability abroad by irritating its rivals. We need have no fear of the future, so long as we thus rely solely on the efficiency of our own work, for the favour of the world will, in the long run inevitably fall to the lot of those who do it the best service.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in view of the declarations made by the Prime Minister, this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of Fiscal Retaliation."—(*Mr. Joseph Walton.*)

MR. LAMBTON (Durham, S.E.) moved, as an Amendment, the addition of the following words at the end of the Motion:—"in as far as it is destructive of Parliamentary control over taxation." He said that it was a great disappointment to free-traders on that side of the House that now, at last, when, after many urgent inquiries, they were being allowed to have a free discussion of this question, their enemies, or, he would say, those who differed from them, were not there to meet them. They had loudly attacked them in the country; they were very dumb to speak in that House. He would like to meet them there personally, for there were many things one would like to say to their face which one did not wish to say behind their backs. But it was their duty as free-traders to proceed in a quiet way with the propaganda of free trade. His noble friend the Member for Greenwich, last Wednesday, compared the collapse of the Tariff Reform Party to the retreat from Moscow; but it would not do to forget that after the retreat from Moscow there was a battle of Waterloo. He would not say anything in disparagement of those Gentlemen, but would strictly adhere to the old saying, *De mortuis nil nisi bonum.* The right hon. Member for West Birmingham, speaking on the Motion of the hon. Member for Oldham, had said that the free-fooders accepted the Government policy, and he himself had thereupon interjected the remark that they did not all accept it. The right hon. Member for Birmingham replied that there were very few of them who confessed that in the country. If it were not too egotistical, he would inform the right hon. Gentleman that in June last year he had a correspondence with the Conservative Association in his constituency, and the letters were published in the newspapers. The chairman of this association asked him to explain why, on three different occasions, he had voted against the Government which he was returned to support, the three occasions alluded to being the Morley Amendment, and the Pirie and Black Motions. In regard to his vote upon the last Motion the letter from the chairman of the Conservative Association in his constituency stated—

> "It is difficult to reconcile that vote with the speech you made at Wingate on the 23rd of January last, in which you are reported to have stated as follows:—'As regarded Mr. Balfour's policy he (Mr. Lambton) would support it as far as he understood it, the policy of free negotiation and of retaliation against any country treating us in an outrageous manner. He (Mr. Lambton) was quite prepared to say to Mr. Balfour—We will give up the idea that no tax is to be imposed except for revenue purposes. You may impose a tax upon foreign goods if we are outrageously treated in the countries from which they are sent, but you will have to come to the House of Commons to get it passed. If the House of Commons found that there was a good case, no doubt it would agree to such a tax. Beyond that he was not prepared to go.'"

To that letter he replied in the following terms—

> "I have no report of my Wingate speech referred to by you, and the points you give seem substantially correctly reported; but of course they are only extracts, and do not cover my whole argument. I remember saying, that 'if Mr. Balfour's fundamental change in our fiscal policy only meant that we might abandon a tradition that every tax must be absolutely and pedantically for revenue alone, I had no objection, and as for negotiation and retaliation, that I believed we had the power now.' I also said that if the Sheffield policy was used to abet in any way the Birmingham policy I should vote against it."

He thought his Amendment was an improvement upon the Resolution before the House. He had not upon this occasion come down to the House to support hon. Members opposite, but to support free trade, and he believed that the Resolution as it stood upon the Paper would hinder free trade. He could not agree with what was said by the seconder of this Resolution, for he did not believe that any hon. Member opposite would be able to go to any constituency in the country and honestly state that retaliation was an utterly impossible thing under any circumstances. What was fiscal retaliation? It was commercial war after all. They all knew the horrors of war by arms, but to tell him that in any part of England they would be able to find people ready to say that under no circumstances should this country indulge in a commercial war was, to his mind, a great mistake. [OPPOSITION cries of "No, no!"] The horrors of war were great, but there were worse things than war. At the present moment they were taxed to the extent of £60,000,000 a year for the purpose of retaliation, because, after all, the Army and the Navy were nothing else but weapons of retaliation. If they were outrageously treated by some foreign country, and treated in an insulting manner, they were ready to spend any amount of money upon retaliation. Retaliation, they were told, was impossible unless it was protective. He thought retaliation might be prohibitive, but that would not be protective. He did not wish to argue in favour of retaliation, but he thought that it was impossible for any statesman to lay down the principle that under no circumstances would he ever be able to propose in this country that they should undertake a commercial war against a foreign nation. He agreed that if any Government did undertake it, the Prime Minister should come to the House of Commons, produce his weapon and his estimate, and show exactly how he proposed to enforce his policy against the foreign country concerned. No doubt retaliation would put a tax upon this country. The Prime Minister had never yet told them how he intended to work his policy of retaliation. His view on this question was that they should be told plainly in the House of Commons whether the Prime Minister intended that retaliation before being applied to receive the approval of the House, or whether it was to be a weapon left to the Executive Government of the day to use. Last year they had some sort of an explanation from the right hon. Gentleman the Home Secretary, who defined the Prime Minister's policy as follows—

> "The principles of the policy are that the Government, when conducting negotiations with foreign countries, should have the power when necessary to threaten retaliation, and that when the threat is insufficient that they should have power to carry it out."

To his mind those words conveyed the impression that the right hon. Gentleman meant that this power should be vested in the Government of the day without coming to Parliament at all. The Prime Minister had told them that the policy he recommended was one which would enable the Government to deal, as far as retaliation could deal, with hostile tariffs, and to deal, as far as fiscal arrangements could deal, with the great evil of dumping. That statement showed conclusively that the Prime Minister did not regard retaliation in the same way as he did. His Amendment simply pointed out that it might be possible at some future time that Parliament would desire to retaliate against some foreign country. He insisted that the Prime Minister should be forced either to declare that he wished powers greater than the mandate of the House of Commons, or that his policy was distinctly a protective one with which free-traders could have nothing to do. He begged to move.

Amendment proposed—

> "At the end, to add the words 'In as far as it is destructive of Parliamentary control over taxation.'"—(*Mr. Lambton.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE (Carnarvon Boroughs) said that the Amendment as well as the views of the hon. Member were entitled to the respectful consideration of free-traders, for he was one of those who had not been content merely to give lip service to the cause of free trade, for whenever there had been any Motion before the House bordering on free trade he had always given his vote for it regardless of the consequences. He regretted, however, that the Amendment had been moved, for it tended to confuse the issue. The hon. Member had dealt with a problematical state of affairs. Retaliation was war, and war was not a policy; it was the breakdown of policy. The Prime Minister had been dealing with the present state of affairs, not with what might happen. The right hon. Gentleman said that owing to the tariffs which foreign countries levied against our goods this country was being injured, and we ought to have a weapon which would enable us to reduce foreign tariffs. That was a totally different state of things to that which was contemplated by the mover of this Amendment. The Prime Minister was dealing with the present state of affairs. It was the right hon. Gentleman's policy that they were condemning, and it would be much better for the House to confine its condemnation to the fiscal policy of the Prime Minister without entering into the question of what was or was not likely to arise. But the Prime Minister declined to discuss this question in the House; so did the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. The discussion, however, was going on in the country. Fiscal reformers were circulating leaflets and making speeches; the fiscal flying squadron was still raiding the country; but they did not face their critics in the House. The Prime Minister had tried many a formula in order to secure unity; at last he had obtained one. He and his Party could not unite in a fighting policy, but they could all unite in running away. The Prime Minister had invited discussion of his views in the House and out of it, but when his opponents took up the challenge and offered discussion in the House the right hon. Gentleman said, "Discussion is a trap," and he warned his friends not to nibble at it, otherwise they would be caught. What a squalid ending to a great campaign. They all remembered with what pomp and circumstance the right hon. Gentleman the Member for

West Birmingham started this campaign not very long ago, and how he received the blessing of the Prime Minister when he started. Wherever the right hon. Gentleman went fashion and wealth and rank rallied round him—

> "The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
> And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold."

What had happened now ?

> "And the tents were all silent, the banners alone,
> The lances unlifted, the trumpet unblown."

Yes, even the trumpet was silent to-night. He really condoled with the hon. Gentleman the Member for Sheffield. His affections had been trifled with in a very cruel manner, and continuing the quotation it might be said—

> "And the idols are broke in the temple of Baal."

That was the end of this great campaign. Not merely the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, but the Prime Minister was in it. The Prime Minister made speeches about the trade of the country; he said there was great danger, he talked about the peril to our Empire, and to our industries, and he also had his remedy—retaliation. He observed from a letter written by Lord Salisbury that that remedy was taken out of the family medicine chest. Both of the right hon. Gentlemen had abandoned the controversy after barely eighteen months discussion.

The right hon. Member for West Birmingham once compared himself to Bismarck, who welded the German Empire together, first of all, by means of commercial unity—the man of blood and iron. What had happened to Bismarck now ? He had fled from Gravelotte with his army at his heels. And there was the Prime Minister, who had been described by one of his admirers as the greatest military strategist since Wellington. What had become of Wellington to-night ? He and Blucher had fled. It was true they had fled in different directions, but they had gone from the field of battle and left it entirely in the hands of the foe. What a contemptible ending to all the talk about the danger to the Empire and the method of federating it ! Supposing it had been a success instead of being a great failure, supposing the country had accepted it and the by-elections had gone their way, those tales of distress in our industries and about the unity of the Empire would still have been heard. But purely and simply for Party exigencies, purely and simply because the thing had proved unpopular in the country, they had abandoned the policy which eighteen months ago they regarded as essential to the industry and commerce of this country. This was a great change.

When this question was started the Prime Minister wrote a pamphlet upon it. [An Hon. Member: Two.] The right hon. Gentleman published one and the other was withdrawn. He had now withdrawn the second after an eighteen months run. That pamphlet was worthy of perusal at the present moment, not from the point of view of the supporters of the Prime Minister, but from the point of view of those who criticised him. The Prime Minister had a way of imagining that all difficulties disappeared by committing his reflections on the subject to writing. That was the case with the War Office. He undertook to rearrange the whole of the tactical defence of the Empire. He wrote, but did not publish, memoranda upon the subject. There were Parliamentary difficulties in that case exactly as there were here, and the moment they appeared he contented himself with the memoranda, and thought the whole subject was solved. The right hon. Gentleman could no more deal with the commerce of this country in a pamphlet than he could defend India by memoranda on the subject of military strategy. The way the Prime Minister had treated a first-class question of this character was really a degradation of the institutions of the country. When he started the question he talked about the peril to our industries; then when he found the new policy was not acceptable to the country he said it was a bore. There were hundreds and thousands of people to whom the question of the proper system of trade and commerce for this country was a matter of food and clothing and shelter. It was not a bore to them, at any rate, but that was the way the Prime Minister had thought fit to treat it. [An

HON. MEMBER: He never said it was a bore.] He said so in a speech delivered at Glasgow. He said the whole subject was a bore. The hon. Member who interrupted him did not even know what his leader had said on the subject.

The Prime Minister's record on this subject was an extraordinary one. First of all he promulgated a policy upon this matter of life and death to the industries of this country, and then, having placed the policy before his Party, he ran away from it. What a leader for a Party! What a Tsar! He allowed his subjects to defy his ukases and even to fire at each other in the street; they could plot to assassinate each other round corners, they could do anything so long as they maintained him on his throne, and the House of Commons supported the Ministry. It was good enough to keep them in power and vote their salaries, but the House of Commons was not fit to express an opinion on the trade, industry, and commerce that affected their constituencies. This was treating the House of Commons with contempt. The country was taking note of the action of the Ministry in this matter. It had been the death of fiscal reform. It had brought fiscal reform into contempt. It could not have brought the Ministry into greater contempt than it was before; but this was not the way a great question ought to be treated by the Prime Minister of the country. When the Government had to decide between trade and the Empire on the one hand and a longer existence for itself on the other, the Prime Minister, with the desperate greed of a miser clutching at every extra day to add to his hoard, said, "Let trade and Empire go, and give me the extra eighteen months of power." There was a time when the Ministry which ought to be there, but which had now run away, represented all that was patriotic, all that was efficient, all that was courageous in the country, and to doubt it was almost equal to treason. What did they represent now? He knew of no greater criticism upon the democracy of this country than that it had taken seven years to discover the men who now governed it.

*MR. HUNT said that they had been told that if retaliation were resorted to we should create animosities and irritate our rivals. Was not all commercial rivalry really the same as commercial strife? Did it make that strife less because we allowed our rivals to put their heels upon our necks? Was it not merely humbug to cry peace when there was no peace? In the fiscal debate last week those who believed in retaliation were subjected to the most fierce criticism that could be thought of from both sides of the House. They were told that they were afraid to face the question in the House of Commons, although they paraded their policy in the country. He begged to state that they were not the least afraid. They thought that they had got a good cause which was gaining ground every day in the country. It seemed to him that the reason their opponents were so desperately anxious to get the Government out was that they were afraid the country was being educated into understanding the folly of the free import system, and that their pet cries of big loaves, chained Chinamen, and dear sugar were beginning to be found out to be political humbug. Radical orators went about the country preaching the blessings of free trade which we had never had. What Mr. Cobden meant by free trade was free exchange between nations, not this one-sided absurdity which we had got at present. Go and ask any shopkeeper if it was any use being able to buy, however cheaply, if he was unable to sell. Surely this was the case with Great Britain to-day. Hon. Gentlemen opposite were apparently so thick in the head that they could not see it. As we could not have real free trade, why should we not take our share in regulating trade by retaliation, and getting back the power of bargaining possessed by every other nation? America had real free trade within her huge land boundaries? Why should not we get as near real free trade as possible within the limits of the British Empire, with the ocean for our highway? Other nations had used their fiscal weapons to the utmost, while ours were lying idle by our side with the greatest and best market in the world to back them. They had been called "whole-hoggers" and "little-piggers." It seemed hard that the free-fooders should not have a name too. Might he suggest that they might be called the tiny-winy wee-wee little piggy-wigs of all? Runtlings they called them in his part of the country. He thought when next they went to market they would have no new policy to offer for the present commercial stagnation, they would find no buyers, and be turned out into the wilderness to try and learn to look a little further than their noses.

The free-fooders had complained bitterly of the attacks made on the Unionist free-fooders by tariff-reformers, but had not the attacks in the House and out of it made by the free-fooders been very strong and very bitter? Had not the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich invaded Shropshire during his free food advocating tour? Might it not very well be that the shock of his oratory had blown the hon. Member for Shrewsbury off the fence on to the free-food side. Were tariff-reformers not to be allowed to retaliate? They had been told that retaliation in the form of taxing those who taxed us was a quack remedy. It was very curious that the huge majority of the doctors were on the side of the quack remedy. In 1880 Mr. McKinley said "The weight of nations is overwhelmingly on one side." Which was right — the British Government or the whole of the rest of the civilised world? Did it ever strike the noble Lord the Member for Greenwich and hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House that it was possible that the free import system might be a quack policy and that the other policy might be the regular and the right cure? It had been stated that any form of protection, of which retaliation was one, would corrupt our public life, make people look after their own interests more than now, and divide classes. Did the people who employed this argument know that the chief reason why the American farmers were tumbling over the Canadian border was because the laws of Canada were strictly and fairly enforced whilst the laws of America were not? Yet Canada was a country which encouraged her own industries, protected her own workmen, and was ready to retaliate when hit. It appeared to him, too, that even in this free-importing country that people took pretty good care to look after their own interests. Did not some shipbuilders strongly advocate the free importation of foreign manufactured products, because it was an advantage to them in building their ships? British industries might be ruined for all they cared, so that they could get their cheap foreign materials. The jam manufacturers wanted their sugar under the cost of production, and had no objection to the wages of their factory hands being kept down by the importation of foreign aliens. People with their money in foreign industries fought for free imports, because they were afraid that if British industries got fair play that their foreign securities would go down. The head of a great chocolate manufactory, which had protection, which was very flourishing, and gave regular work and good wages, gave not long ago a large sum to the free-import party, but we had not heard that he had petitioned the Chancellor of the Exchequer to take the protection off his chocolate. This all seemed very human and very natural. But should we be less human and less honest if all our industries were protected from unfair competition and dumping?

They were told that industries of this country were flourishing, holding their own, and doing well. How was it that Mr. Leonard Courtney, one of the great free-traders, bemoaned the fact that America and Germany had both passed us in two of our great industries in which not so many years ago we were ahead of both countries combined? He wept over the fact but proposed no remedy and left them to their dying. The tariff-reformers proposed a remedy and a cure. They were told that tariff reform was not only dead but had become a laughing stock. He disagreed entirely. Time was on their side, and the sound common sense of the British people. Those who had been to school knew that the boy who never retaliated when he was kicked was the one who got the most kicks of any boy in the school. Lord Lansdowne had said that the way of the nations was practically the same, and that in commercial matters we were the nation that got far the greatest number of commercial kicks. They were accused last week of taking the denunciation of their policy lying down for one short part of an evening. The free importing Party had taken their commercial kicks lying down for the last twenty-five years. He thought it would be remembered that last year the right hon. Member for West Bristol, the leader of the Unionist free-traders, explained in the House that we might get great commercial advantages from America by taking off a tax of 2s. a quarter from American wheat, but that this would cause great trouble in this country as we should not be able to do it on Canada's account, and that this was one, at all events, of his great reasons for sticking to one-sided free trade, but it surely showed the power of retaliation. Some eight or nine years ago the Canadians sent a deputation to Washington to ask for better terms for trade and commerce, and the Americans would have nothing to do with it; but directly after the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham delivered his first speech on tariff reform, the leaders of American commerce met together and agreed that as the right hon. Gentleman's scheme was very dangerous for American commerce they had better send as soon as possible to the Canadians and offer them the best possible terms before the patriotism of Mr. Chamberlain bound Canada to the great British Empire for ever. So that it was evident that even the threat of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was enough to make the Americans climb down and make a better offer than the Canadians had asked for in vain eight or nine years before.

The American Press had pointed out what would be the effect if the scheme of retaliatory tariffs and colonial preference were carried out. One American paper went so far as to say that it would be worse for America than a civil war, and, according to one of their leaders, even the German Socialists held the same opinion. Even in the far off wilds of America, among the haunts of the cariboo, the moose, and the grizzly, an Englishmen and a German when they met could not keep off the tariff question. The German trader said to the Englishman, "If your Mr. Chamberlain gets his way it will kill me dead." It seemed curious that during the five years before Canada gave us a preference, our exports to Canada went down from 68,000,000 dollars to 29,000,000 dollars, whilst German and American exports were going up during the same time. The reason of that had been sent to him the other day by a man who had been travelling in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa for the last two years. He said that wherever he went he was followed by German or American travellers; and if they could find out the price he had offered to supply his goods at they at once offered to do it for 5 per cent. less. The American manufacturer had a certain surplus to dispose of, and must do so at any price. His home market had paid for the surplus goods, and the proceeds or most of them were pure profit. The American travellers frankly admitted that that was true, and said that they were going to sweep the trade of the British Colonies into their hands out of the hands of the British manufacturers and merchants. Under the free imports system there were firms in England now doing a big business by importing into this country American and German dumped goods, repacking them, and sending them off again as British made; but the making of these goods did not provide any wages for the British workman. About 3,000 men had been thrown out of work within the last few months near London and at Dundee from the failure of jute mills; yet they found that eight gentlemen of the historically free-trade name of Gladstone were shareholders in mills in India and were doing well. If our industries were all doing so well, how was it that these gentlemen could not find investments at home? Was it because we had no security here, while India had a tariff and the power of retaliation? Was it a case of rats leaving a sinking ship?

Now, he appealed to the representatives of labour; did they think that our system of free imports was good for them? [OPPOSITION cries of "Time" and "Divide"] The Report of the United States Tariff Commission in 1882 pointed out that English markets were being swamped with dumped goods, while English capital was being removed to the Continent to be employed in foreign manufactures. Removing English capital to the Continent had secured a profitable home market, while England was near with widely opened ports to serve as a dumping ground to unload surplus goods made by foreign labour superintended by English skill. In this way English markets were swamped and her labour undersold. He asked the Labour Members opposite whether they were quite sure that they were doing right in refusing to consider the tariff question ? Trade unionists had told him that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had been thought to be their leader and was going to do a great deal for them. The Home Rule split knocked all that on the head, and the trade union leaders had never forgiven the right hon. Gentleman. Therefore, a great deal of the hostility of the trade unionists to retaliation or tariff reform was really personal hostility to the right hon. Gentleman. A number of industries and millions of capital had gone out of this country to get behind the foreign tariff walls and provide work and wages for foreign labour. One firm of thread manufacturers alone employed 12,000 men outside this country and paid foreign workmen £500,000 a year in wages. That was all because we had not got the power of retaliation. [Loud OPPOSITION cries of "Time" and "Divide."] He did not often trouble the House. It was said that import duties always made things dearer, and that the consumer always paid the tax. Now, in New Zealand there was at one time no duty on matches, and the price, when importation was free, was 4s. 9d. per gross ; but when two or three manufactories were started in Wellington and a tariff of 25 per cent. was put on against imported matches the New Zealanders got their matches cheaper, and employed a great number of hands at very good wages as well. The fiscal question was an Imperial one. Some of our colonial brethren thought that the Liberal Party had gone stark staring mad, or else that they could think of absolutely nothing else except how cheaply they should get their "vittles," and how cheaply they could get their drink. Could not the representatives of labour see that under the present system of free imports and non-retaliation, our workmen were exposed to the competition of goods made by the black and white convict labour of America, and the sweated labour of the Continent ? Could not the trade unionists see that, though they could and did protect their labour against the British employers, they were absolutely helpless against the foreign employers ? If they had the black and white convicts over here with their employers, and the foreign employers with their cheap workmen, the rank and file of trade unionists would very soon stir up their leaders to do something ; but because these foreign labourers and employers were across the seas and could not be seen, the trade union leaders blindly followed the policy of the man who said he would rather live under the rule of a savage South African potentate than under the tyranny of trade unionism.

After all, the Empire belonged to the working classes just as much as to any class. Their grandsires spilt their blood to gain and keep it. Were they going to let their grandchildren say of them that, for a supposed mess of pottage, they deliberately threw away the greatest inheritance that had ever been left to any people ? Did the labour representatives really think that they knew better than all the rest of the working world ; or were they being led away by the Liberal Party, which turned the fiscal question into a Party question for the sake of uniting their scattered and shattered forces. What mattered it to them so that they did not have to spend the rest of their valuable lives in opposition ! They were the Party of "Make-believe." They tried to make the British people believe that they knew better than all the rest of the civilised world ; that Chinamen were imported into South Africa, chained together, like slaves of old ; that the free import loaf was gigantic and the Chamberlain loaf barely visible ; that the Sugar Convention was a device of the Government for making sugar dearer. The fact was that they would practically say almost anything which they thought would help their reckless, feckless, divided Party to crawl on to those Government Benches for a few miserable months.

Mr. ASQUITH (Fifeshire, E.): I shall not attempt to follow the hon. Member in the speech which he has just delivered. I could not if I would, and I would not if I could. But I think it may remain on record as the low-water mark of argumentative humiliation to which tariff reform has been reduced. This is the third occasion in the course of as many weeks in which this House, after a prolonged spell of enforced silence, has been given the opportunity of challenging the policy which goes by the name of tariff reform. We began appropriately with the proposal for colonial preferences based on the protective taxation of food, because that proposal is first in importance, inasmuch as its adoption would be most fatal in its results. We were not allowed to come to a definite decision on that occasion. But the evening was not thrown away, because it afforded to the world the unique, and, I think, unforgettable, spectacle of the evangelists and apostles of a new faith voting with one accord in favour of the previous Question. Then last week, on the invitation of one of my hon. friends, we took up the case of the 10 per cent. tariff on manufactured goods, an integral part, let the House observe, of the same scheme, because the fiscal gap created by colonial preference could only be made good out of the toll to be paid by the foreigner on commodities which were to come into the market for purposes of revenue, and to be kept out at the same time for the purposes of competition. On that occasion, a week ago, one single solitary voice of protest—a voice from Sheffield—was raised. The hon. and gallant Gentleman is not any longer in his place. It was the voice of one crying from a deserted camp in favour of the policy so boldly proclaimed elsewhere. On that occasion there was not even an attempt to rally the supporters of the Government and the tariff-reformers on this question. The Prime Minister blew his bugle and the tariff-reformers of every shade and hue—from the most full-blooded to the most anæmic—took to their heels and fled.

To-night my hon. friend has raised a third issue, distinct from those that have gone before but not less momentous, because it is the one point in the policy of what is called fiscal reform on which the Prime Minister, whose presence we miss, has definitely and unequivocally committed himself. The House remembers that it was described by him not less than two years ago as involving a fundamental reversal of our existing system. It is an extraordinary and unprecedented thing in the history of the House of Commons that when a challenge of that kind is made the Prime Minister should not condescend to be present. We have had in this matter a *crescendo* of evasion. We have had the Leader of the House and the author of the policy which is impugned by this Motion of my hon. friend putting a climax to his two previous performances and absolutely, with the whole of his colleagues, boycotting the House of Commons. This is a matter which goes far beyond the immediate issue. Everywhere else in the world but here the policy of the Prime Minister may be canvassed and criticised—in our Colonial Legislatures, upon platforms in this country, in articles in the newspapers and magazines, in letters to the Press, in pamphlets to be found on every railway bookstall. The one and only place in which, so far as the Government is concerned, free discussion of their policy is excluded is the only place in the whole country where, with the full sense of responsibility, the main combatants can meet face to face in the clash of arms. I venture to say, and I am sorry there is no one upon the Treasury Bench to hear me, but I say it not merely to the Party which sits behind the bench, but to the House of Commons in its corporate capacity and to the country at large, that even the Prime Minister has never gone so far in flouting the authority and impairing the dignity of this House.

As for the question of retaliation, the case against it has been admirably and exhaustively stated by my hon. friend who moved this Resolution. If I devote a few sentences to it, it is only out of respect to the hon. Gentleman opposite who proposed the Amendment, and whose services on behalf of free trade we on this side gladly and gratefully recognise. I venture to say to my hon. friend opposite no one alleges or has ever alleged that there may not be, under peculiar circumstances which have never yet been described, a conceivable instance in which, possibly, by the deliberate action of the Legislature, some form of retaliation may not be imposed. But I have never met any concrete instance stated where these circumstances would be fulfilled. The case against retaliation is overwhelming. It may be summarised in two or three propositions. In the first place, the need for it is absolutely unproved. We get as good terms without retaliation as the most retaliatory country gets with it. In the second place, retaliation, if it is ever to become an effective weapon capable of being applied to practical uses, necessarily and inevitably involves the creation of a general tariff to be applied or to be removed at the will of the Executive of the day. That is a constitutional innovation of the gravest and most dangerous character. In the third place, experience shows, and no experience more clearly than the recent history of Germany, that a tariff put on for retaliatory purposes is always retained in the long run for the purposes of protection. The interests which grow up under the shelter of retaliatory tariffs become too strong to permit the walls to which they cling ever to be pulled down. Lastly, of all countries in the world this United Kingdom, of whose exports not less than four-fifths are manufactured goods, and of whose imports no less than nine-tenths consist of food, of raw material, and half made-up materials, stands to gain less and lose more by the adoption of the system of international reprisals. That is the unanswerable case against retaliation. At any rate, it has not been answered to-night.

It is a significant fact that when an issue of this kind—which was declared by the Prime Minister himself in the September of 1903 to be an issue which involves a fundamental reversal of the whole fiscal policy of this country —should for the first time be raised in the House of Commons, there is not a single man upon the benches opposite, with the negligible exception of the hon. Member for Ludlow, who is prepared to advance a word in its favour. It is very difficult to carry on debate under such conditions. We have no arguments to meet. The oracles so eloquent in the country are dumb here. I do not think there are even any unregenerate souls to convert. No; the hon. Gentleman the Member for Sheffield has left the House. Under these circumstances, I feel as one sometimes has felt at the end of a choral service, when the minister mounts the pulpit for the sole purpose apparently of edifying the faithful and says: "You might as well do without a discourse and conclude at once with the Benediction." I venture to appeal to my hon. friend opposite who has moved this Amendment, important as he must admit it to be, as a strong and convinced free-trader, that this House should, if possible, have a unanimous declaration of its opinions to-night, that he might withdraw the Amendment he has proposed and allow us to take a direct and simple issue upon this policy of fiscal retaliation, which, for the reasons which my hon. friends have put forward, and which I have endeavoured to summarise, would, if it could be carried into effect—I do not believe that to be possible—be fatally injurious in its consequences to the trade of this country, would involve us in a long series of unprofitable and wasteful commercial wars, and would undo the great results which have been achieved during the period since Mr. Cobden and Sir Robert Peel began to preach the doctrines of free trade.

MR. THORNTON (Clapham) said he did not presume to follow such an accomplished orator as the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken; but he thought the debate had been taken up with the relations between free-trade, protection, and with the question of retaliation, rather than that of negotiation concerning which not one word had been mentioned, and which was the very foundation of the Prime Minister's policy. He would ask if the right hon. Gentleman who had just spoken did not believe that our markets were so valuable that under wise negotiation, followed in certain instances by retaliation, we might succeed in promoting commercial intercourse in a manner hon. Gentlemen opposite did not apparently realise. The hon. and learned Member for the Launceston Division, whose views they all respected, stated that it was impossible to start retaliation from a free-trade basis, and that it must proceed from the protectionist side. If that were so, his case fell to the ground. At present, however, they had only the *ipse dixit* of the hon. Gentleman, but it had not yet been proved that it was not possible to take the course advocated by the Prime Minister at Sheffield and begin at the other end. He believed it would be possible to start from a free-trade platform, and by negotiation, and if necessary, by retaliation, be able to achieve great successes without infringing the principles of free trade. Who could be better able to express their thoughts on the question of negotiation than the learned Members for Fife and Launceston, who had exercised the art so ably in many suits and yet were reticent on this side of the fiscal question? They ought not to forget that this policy had been tried within the last few years when Germany attempted to put this country on a different footing to that of Canada. This country stepped in and was successful. He was a free-trader, but he wished, if possible, by negotiation and retaliation, to remove some of the tariffs which, in the opinion of some of the greatest thinkers of the day, had been injurious to this country. That was the contention of the late Lord Salisbury, and the Duke of Devonshire also contended for this principle; but he grounded himself really on the free-trade opinions of Adam Smith, who, at the end of the seventeenth century, wrote—

> "There may be good policy in retaliations of this kind, when there is a probability that they will procure the repeal of the high duties or prohibitions complained of. The recovery of a great foreign market will generally more than compensate the transitory inconveniency of paying dearer for some sorts of goods."

He was aware that it had been determined not to fight this principle on Unionist Party lines upon the present occasion, but nevertheless it was necessary for a private Member who had strongly advocated negotiation as a means of trade defence not to shrink from expressing his views in that House. He believed that although the constituencies would strongly favour free-trade and shrink both from schemes of general protection or protective taxation of food, they would not rally around a party which rested content with the outrageously unfair foreign tariffs which undoubtedly did exist, and threatened the future of our trade. He would try the effect of retaliation sooner than this, but should the remedy be found to impinge on free-trade principles, as hon. Gentlemen opposite feared, the system could be abandoned. He had faith in the expert handling of negotiation and retaliation just as a country entrusted its land and sea forces to competent generals and admirals. Thus we need not injure ourselves in the manner suggested by Opposition speakers.

He agreed with the Prime Minister that they might trust to negotiation and, if necessary, retaliation, to bring down tariffs. He would ask hon. Gentlemen opposite whether, if this policy had been in operation in 1890, before the M'Kinley tariff was arranged, the United States would have imposed a duty which hampered, injured, and almost destroyed one of our industries. He alluded to the tinplate trade. He himself had met men in London who had been thrown out of employment in Monmouth and Newport as a result of that duty. Had this country at that time the power of negotiation and retaliation they would have been able to prevent all the suffering that was then caused. It was all very well to say that the recovery of this industry in new markets was all to the advantage of the free-trade system, but the same results might surely have been attained by negotiation without all this suffering. For his part he was sorry that more able exponents of the doctrine he held were not present to enforce it. They had a good case and, to use a military illustration, might have passed from their Mukden, entrenched themselves at their Tieling, and made a very good fight indeed. He was in favour of trying retaliation, but if retaliation infringed one iota on free-trade he would give it up. There existed an ample margin to retaliate upon as regarded machinery in America and manufactured goods in Germany, and very few were the instances where negotiation could not be followed by some retaliatory action. He thanked the House for having given him so patient a hearing.

Mr. ELLIS GRIFFITH (Anglesey) said that last Wednesday the Prime Minister advised his followers neither to speak nor to vote. After listening to the speech of the hon. Member for the Ludlow Division he understood the right hon. Gentleman's advice not to speak. Before referring to the speech of his hon. friend who had just spoken and whose intervention the House welcomed, he wished to state that it was a mistake to look on retaliation as a fiscal question. It was a compromise made by the Prime Minister in order to satisfy, as far as possible, all his followers in the House. His hon. friend said that retaliation could be tried on a free-trade basis; but that was an impossible theory. The moment it was put in practice they could not get back to the *status quo.* The worst opponents of this country were Russia, the United States, and Spain.

*MR. THORNTON; Not Russia.

MR. ELLIS GRIFFITH said that Russia had gone then. How were they going to retaliate against Spain or the United States. Were they going to tax iron ore from Spain or wheat and cotton from the United States? The moment retaliation was touched by cold fact there was nothing in it. The hon. Gentleman stated that if retaliation failed he would give it up. But he could not give it up because vested interests would have been created. As a matter of fact the Prime Minister had never given any actual *data* as to the results of the application of his doctrine. The right hon. Gentleman referred to "outrageous conduct" in general terms, but let him give a concrete instance with which it could be effectually applied. Let him give a single instance in which retaliation had succeeded and had not done more harm to the country that applied it than to the country to which it was applied. He regretted the absence of the Prime Minister. It was not possible to misconstrue it. The right hon. Gentleman's two assets were exhausted. One was unsettled convictions, and the other was the policy of the previous Question. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had said that the open mind betrayed the empty mind. He supposed the open mind led to empty benches. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham had abandoned every leader, and he would be willing to abandon the Prime Minister. But the Prime Minister would not be abandoned. "I could not love thee, dear, so much, loved I not office more." That was the position of the Prime Minister towards the Member for West Birmingham. The fact that the Government had run away must make an impression on the country. There was a man who thought that the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill was a Bill to compel a man to marry his deceased wife's sister. The Prime Minister took a similar view of the Septennial Act. He thought it was a Bill to compel a Government to remain in office for a certain number of years. He thought the vote that was about to be given would show him that the House was against him, and later on he would find that the country was against his policy.

MR. ELLIOTT (Durham) said two speeches had been made that night in favour of retaliation, and both hon. Members had taken up a similar and very extraordinary position. They had referred to the fact that there were seasons of depression and unemployment in this country, and they assumed that if we had had the benefit of retaliation things would have been different. He commended to the notice of those hon.

Members the report recently issued by the great steel trust of the United States, comparing the year 1904 with the year 1903. It showed that in the later year that great corporation had found it necessary to reduce by more than 20,000 the number of their employees, and to reduce in salaries and wages, their expenses by more than 20,000,000 dollars. And that in a country where retaliation was regarded as a principal part of commercial policy. It was useless to argue in that fashion. He had been an unwilling witness of a scene that he had never before witnessed in that House. What was almost as important as the view which the executive Government took upon this question of retaliation and the fiscal policy of the country was the view the executive Government took of the House of Commons. The Prime Minister had told them that he thought the House of Commons showed to the least advantage when it was discussing questions of political economy. He should have thought it was the business of the right hon. Gentleman to do something to raise the tone of their debates, to give the House the benefit of that knowledge and reading which he undoubtedly possessed. He observed that there was a confusion in some Members' minds between leaving open a Question on private Members' nights and the practice which on the second occasion the Government had now followed of deserting its place in the House of Commons and leaving it alone and entirely without guidance. On the old Wednesdays and Tuesday afternoons when Resolutions and Bills used to come before the House, the Government very often, and very rightly, thought it proper to leave the House to act on its own discretion. But that did not mean that the occupants of the Treasury Bench, the President of the Board of Trade, if it was a trade question, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, if it was an Exchequer question—it did not mean that the representatives of those great Departments were to turn their backs on the House altogether and leave that Assembly because it had been determined not to put on Government tellers. The view of the House of Commons and of Ministers then was that Ministers owed something to the House. Here they were to-night discussing a question of the utmost importance to the trade of the country; where was the Secretary to the Board of Trade, where was the Prime Minister? It was not that these Gentlemen had nothing to say on the subject. Why, only a few days ago the Secretary to the Board of Trade was down at Warrington supporting in a vigorous speech the policy of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. He said that those right hon. Gentlemen owed it to the House of Commons to be there on an occasion of this kind. It was a fatal mistake for any Executive to suppose that the House of Commons only existed to discuss those subjects which the Executive out of its generosity chose to place before it. Anybody who had read English history must know that it had been one of the most cherished liberties of the House of Commons to discuss those topics which it wished to discuss, and that one great Sovereign after another had failed in this country because he was determined to do all that in him lay to confine the House of Commons to the discussion of those topics which he wished it to discuss.

What was the House to do in these circumstances? He did hope that some measures would be found to show that they not only deplored the action of the Ministry, but that as representatives of the people and as the House of Commons of the United Kingdom they resented it. How could the House of Commons continue to give satisfaction to the people? How could it go on otherwise than shorn of its strength if it was to be treated as of no worth at all by those who were not only the executive Government of the country, but who ought to be leaders of the House of Commons itself? It was a lamentable spectacle that they had witnessed, and one which he had no doubt would greatly influence the country. The country would see, as most Members assembled there saw, that the day had come when a new House of Commons should be sent to Westminster which could represent up to date the feelings of the country on these great questions, which, in spite of the Prime Minister, were before the country, and that then, and not till then, would it be possible that some sort of settled policy could be adopted and the commercial and industrial prosperity of the United Kingdom secured.

Question put, and negatived.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): May I ask you, Sir, whether this will be recorded as having been passed *nemine contradicente?*

*MR. SPEAKER: Yes, that appears to be the fact.

Resolved, *Nemine Contradicente*, That, in view of the declarations made by the Prime Minister, this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of Fiscal Retaliation.

LANDS VALUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

And, it being Midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday, 14th April.

CLOSING OF LICENSED PREMISES (CHRISTMAS DAY) (IRELAND) BILL.

Read a second time and committed for this day.

THE NON-ATTENDANCE OF MINISTERS.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington), in moving the adjournment of the House, said that supposing Votes A and 7 of the Army Estimates were carried by 6.30 p.m. to-morrow night, the next order would be the non-effective Votes of the Army and Navy.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) asked whether the guillotine rule did not prohibit any business not included in the guillotine rule.

MR. SPEAKER: "No business other than Supply" are the words.

MR. WHITLEY said he would submit that the words referred only to Supply, governed by the guillotine rule.

MR. CHURCHILL (Oldham) said he desired to ask whether there was anything in the health of the Prime Minister to cause anxiety to the right hon. Gentleman's friends, as the right hon. Gentleman had not been in his place to defend the policy especially associated with his name. He should be glad of an assurance that there was no reason to prevent the right hon. Gentleman attending. The Prime Minister was now never present except to propose some gagging Resolution. Had the Patronage Secretary to the Treasury been authorised to declare the intentions of the Government with regard to the Resolution which had just been passed? After the passing of such a Resolution, framed deliberately as a vote of censure, and supported by the official Opposition, did the Prime Minister consider it consonant with his public duty and personal honour to continue in his present position? The situation would raise a storm of execration and contempt in the country. [AN HON. MEMBER laughed.] An hon. Member, who had been paid for his obsequious loyalty by some miserable post, laughed. Why was the hon. Member not in his place before? Anything for place! That was exactly the policy which the hon. Member's great leader set him. To keep in office for a few more weeks and months there was no principle which the Government was not prepared to abandon, no friend or colleague that they were not prepared to betray, and no quantity of dirt and filth that they were not prepared to eat.

*MR. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs) asked whether, seeing that the Government had declared their intention of paying no regard to the proceedings of the House on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and that a decision arrived at in the early hours of morning and evening sittings was to be ignored on the ground that it was taken by a "snap" division, the Patronage Secretary would inform the House on what days and between what hours the decision of the House of Commons was to be treated as binding upon the Government?

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) asked whether the right hon. and gallant Gentleman would, in view of the absence of his colleagues, circulate the speech of his hon. friend.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said he would appeal to the right hon. Gentleman to give an answer, seeing that the Government had been unanimously condemned. It was the worst vote of censure he had ever seen carried in the House—not a voice contradicting it. Surely it would be courteous to the House to say what the Government intended to do. He remembered a somewhat similar occasion in 1895. The then Government had some sense of honour and the moment a Resolution was carried by a majority of eight it was announced that the Government would consider its position. The present Government ought to state now what course it intended to pursue.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said he had heard of an actress in Paris who, when hissed by her audience, remarked, "Well, I put my salary in the box." That was the position of the Prime Minister. The right hon. Gentleman was such a great family man that he had packed the Treasury Bench with his relatives.

Mr. ELLIS GRIFFITH said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would make some explanation. He was the only representative of the Government; he was a member of the Privy Council; and surely he would not treat the House of Commons with discourtesy. He sympathised with the Prime Minister. He did not blame him. The right hon. Gentleman was not merely a Prime Minister but a Minister who had passed his prime. He asked the Patronage Secretary to state whether the House of Commons would be in the same position to-morrow. It was very important. because the time of some hon. Gentlemen was valuable even though they were not paid official salaries.

Mr. TENNANT (Berwickshire) said he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would give some explanation regarding the absence of the Prime Minister. He had never hoped to live to see the House of Commons flouted and treated in this manner. The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office was now present. [The Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (Mr. Cochrane, Ayrshire, N.) left the House.] He did not think the hon. Gentleman would show him such discourtesy, as he had never said anything disrespectful of him or his Department. He thought the Government had treated the House of Commons very disrespectfully and their action was deserving of the severest condemnation. The House of Commons was suffering all through the action of one person.

Mr. JOHN BURNS (Battersea) said that the Chief Whip had been described as a bold man struggling with adversity—an adversity thrust upon him by the colleagues who had deserted him. The right hon. Gentleman had been forced into a position which could not be acceptable to him; especially as they knew the manner in which he performed his public duties. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to communicate a message to the Prime Minister. He had never seen a London vestry or borough council who had been called upon to discuss elementary public business flouted with contempt in the way the House of Commons had been by the Government. This kind of conduct brought discredit on Parliament, and could not continue. And the right hon. Gentleman might even go further and tell His Majesty the King that there was a Prime Minister who neglected the elementary duties of his position. It was significant that the only Minister who arrived to give furtive support to the right hon. Gentleman was one of the gentlemen responsible for looking after the criminal classes. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to note the exit of his hon. friend, and above all its rapidity. These proceedings could not continue much longer without discredit and perhaps disorder accruing from the studied flouting and contempt of the Opposition by the Treasury Bench last Wednesday and that evening. He urged the hon. Baronet to pluck up courage and tell the Prime Minister that he had either got to do his duty or clear out, and they would rather that the Ministry should resign than that the fine metal of an institution like the House of Commons should be blunted. The Speaker presided over the House with great dignity, but if the House was to be treated in this manner the day would come when from the Chair, as well as by the House itself, the Government would have to be reminded of its scandalous behaviour. The front Opposition Bench had treated the Ministry too leniently. He appealed to the Chief Whip to say something, if it was nothing more than a courteous "Good night." For heaven's sake let him say something.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Ruschliffe) said that no hon. Member who had sat in the House for a number of years could have listened to the discussion without great feeling. He did not associate himself with every word that had been uttered, but he associated himself with the spirit which had been manifested, and he earnestly hoped that the Patronage Secretary would faithfully represent to the Prime Minister the feeling which had been evinced in the House. This thing could not go on. The Prime Minister might vote them down; but a spirit was rising in the House and in the country, not perhaps adequately represented in the House, which would need their consideration. He most earnestly implored the right hon. Gentleman, speaking as one who desirous to maintain the high traditions and dignity of that Assembly, to convey to the Prime Minister the feeling which had been aroused.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said he wished to ask whether the Government intended to repeat the same despicable manœuvre to-morrow evening. Surely the right hon. Gentleman, if he retained any particle of respect for the Opposition, should see that this state of affairs could not continue. He knew the right hon. Gentleman was the last man who would run away from a discussion because it was inconvenient; but unfortunately he was mixed up with a Government which believed that discretion was the better part of valour. The incident, he would repeat, was a despicable manœuvre without parallel.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said that the right hon. Gentleman was not prepared to reply to the Question put to him. That Question was whether the Government intended to resign or dissolve. He would answer for the right hon. Gentleman. The Government would remain in office as if nothing had occurred. They recognised the manœuvre they had recourse to was not a very honest one; but they were in a difficult position; and there was no other course for them to pursue. Last week they agreed to run away from a Motion with reference to the policy of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham; this week they ran away from a Motion against the policy of the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister said that he was essential to the country; but why not dissolve and see the result?

Adjourned at half after Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 29th March, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Accrington Corporation Bill; Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill. As amended, to be considered To-morrow.

Wrexham Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

London United Tramways (Extension of Time) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Charing Cross, Euston, and Hampstead Railway Bill; Great Northern, Piccadilly, and Brompton Railway (No. 1) Bill; Hitchin and District Gas Bill; Great Northern Railway Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

PETITIONS.

AGRICULTURAL RATES, CONGESTED DISTRICTS, AND BURGH LAND TAX RELIEF (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1896.

Petition from Morayshire, for continuance; to lie upon the Table.

DOGS (PROTECTION) BILL.

Petition from London and other places, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC LOCAL VETO (SCOTLAND) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Kilbarchan; and Pollokshaws; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Ashton-under-Lyne; Exmouth; Leeds; Leicester (two); National British Women's Temperance Association; and Skipton; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Morpeth, against; to lie upon the Table.

MILK DEPOTS (LONDON) BILL.

Petition from Battersea, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Battersea, against; to lie upon the Table.

RATING OF MACHINERY BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

TRADE MARKS BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, No. 3331 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented, of Postal Agreement for an exchange of Money Orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Russia, dated the 17th/29th October, 1904 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).

Return presented, relative thereto, [ordered 28th February; *Mr. McCrae*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 104.]

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) RETURNS.

Copy presented, of Returns of Local Taxation in Ireland for the year 1903–4 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT (IRELAND), 1877.

Copy presented, of an Order in Council, dated 22rd February, 1905, giving effect to Rules of Court under The Supreme Court of Judicature Act (Ireland), 1877 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION.

Copy presented, of Memorandum by the Chairman of the Committee appointed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department to inquire into the

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Law relating to Compensation for Injuries to Workmen, on Foreign and Colonial Laws relating to Compensation for Injuries to Workmen. Vol. III. Supplementary Appendix [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANKS FUND.

Return ordered, "relating to the Post Office Savings Banks Fund, giving—

The amount of Consols (including Reduced and New Three per Cent. Stocks) bought and sold for cash, and the cash paid and received for the same, for each year since its establishment; and the average price of these transactions.

The amount of Consols held by the National Debt Commissioners for the Fund at the 31st day of December, 1904; and

The amount of Consols (including Reduced and New Three per Cent. Stocks) cancelled in exchange for Terminable Annuities, stating, where applicable, the date of cancellation, the cash value of the stock at that date, the amount of the Annuity, the term of its currency, and the rate of interest at which it was set up."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

COAL IMPORTS (FRANCE).

Return ordered, "showing the quantity of Coal imported into France from Germany, Belgium, Holland, the United Kingdom, and other sources in each of the years 1895–1904, distinguishing separately imports by sea and imports by land."—(*Sir Thomas Wrightson.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Training College for Elementary School Teachers—Grant to Hereford Training College.

SIR JAMES RANKIN (Herefordshire, Leominster): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Education whether the Board of Education have now come to any decision as to the amount of grant that can be given in aid of the building or purchase of buildings for the purpose of a training college for elementary school teachers; and, if so, whether he could state what sum had been or would be awarded to the Hereford Training College.

(*Answered by Sir William Anson.*) The matter is still under consideration, and I am afraid that I am not yet in a position to make any statement upon the subject. The Board are in communication with the Treasury upon the matter.

Wreck of the "Khyber"—Efficiency of Coastguard Service.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether, in giving instructions for the inquiry to be held with regard to the wreck of the ship "Khyber," he will order that the efficiency of the coastguard service in the neighbourhood be inquired into.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) In holding the inquiry ordered to be held in the case of the "Khyber," due regard will be had to the question of the efficiency of the coastguard, in so far as it is relevant to the case.

Irish Lightships Adrift.

MAJOR JAMESON (Clare, W.): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state at what length of cable the Barrels Lightship was riding when she broke adrift, and at what distance from the mushroom the cable parted; and if he will supply a list of the Irish lightships which have broken adrift during the last ten years, and the reasons for their having done so.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I am informed by the Commissioners of Irish Lights that this lightship was riding to about 200 fathoms of chain when she broke adrift, and that the chain parted at about 80 fathoms from the mushroom. I am also informed that the only other lightships which have broken adrift during the past ten years are the Coningbeg (on 15th instant), the Daunts Rock (on 22nd January, 1903), and the South Arklow (on 3rd November, 1899), and that in each of these instances the cause was the parting of the cable during a severe gale.

Recruiting for Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve.

Sir JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can state the date when recruiting for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve commenced; and whether the number 3,053, stated in the First Lord's Memorandum as the total strength of that force on 1st December, 1904, represents the total result of efforts made up to that date to obtain Volunteers for service in the Fleet in war, carrying with it the obligation to serve abroad or wherever the exigencies of war may require.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) Recruiting for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve began officially in London, the first centre, in August, 1903; from November, 1903, to July, 1904, recruiting commenced at various other centres at different dates. The number of men stated in the First Lord's Memorandum represents the total strength of the force (exclusive of staff) on the 1st December last. That number represents the recruiting by such divisions as the Admiralty thought desirable to authorise during the first year.

Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve—Qualifications required for Officers and Men.

Sir JOHN COLOMB: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will lay upon the Table information as to the nature of the qualifications required for officers and men entering the Royal Naval Volunteer force, and a copy of the agreement, if any, they are required to enter into when approved for service.

(*Answered by Mr. Pretyman.*) The nature of the qualifications required of officers and men entering the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and of the agreement under which they volunteer to serve, will be found in the Admiralty regulations and in Schedules A and B of those regulations. The regulations are issued to the public on sale and I have laid a copy upon the Table of the House.

Petition of Women Sorters at Post Office Savings Bank Department.

Mr. BELL (Derby): To ask the Postmaster-General if a decision has yet been arrived at in the case of the petition, dated January 6th, 1903, from the women sorters, Savings Bank Department; and if a copy of the decision, when given, will be supplied to the memorialists in writing.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The hon. Member no doubt refers to a petition from the women sorters dated 19th January, 1903. This was considered by my predecessor, whose decision was communicated to the memorialists verbally on 25th February, 1903. If they wish for a copy of the decision they can have one on applying to the Controller of the Savings Bank Department.

Telegraphists and Postal Duties.

Mr. BELL: To ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of his predecessor's assurances to telegraphists that no officers entering the service before 1896 should be compelled to perform duties in the postal branch, he will explain why orders have now been given that certain telegraphists entering before that date are to take duty in sorting offices or be removed from the town in which they have lived.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I am not aware that my predecessor gave any such assurance as that to which the hon. Member refers. I shall be obliged if he will inform me when, and to whom, the statement in question was made.

New Post Office at Birkenhead.

Sir ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can now hold out any hope of commencing the promised new post office building at Birkenhead during the coming financial year.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I hope that it may be possible to make a beginning in the course of the coming financial year, but I am still unable to give any definite pledge in regard to the new office, as there are many other very urgent cases.

Wages of Post Office Engineers.

Mr. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich): To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that certain men employed in the engineering department of the Post Office, and stationed in the North-Western district, have had their wages reduced to twenty-three shillings per week through no fault of their own; and will he consider the advisability of fixing a minimum wage of twenty-five shillings per week for all adult employees of the engineering department of the postal telegraphs.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The men to whom the hon. Member refers were engaged as wiremen for a particular work, and that work being finished their engagement terminated. Rather, however, than send the men away the superintending engineer found some labourers work for them, and they are being paid the proper rate for such work. I am not prepared to fix a minimum rate of twenty-five shillings.

Post Office—Alteration of Official Pay Day.

CAPTAIN NORTON (Newington, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he has received a petition signed by over 6,000 London postmen protesting against the proposed alteration of their pay day from Saturday to Friday; and, if so, is he now prepared to alter his decision and retain Saturday as the official pay day.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) I have received petitions upon the subject from a large number of the London postmen, and they have been informed of my decision. I am satisfied that it is desirable to change the pay day from Saturday to Friday. In order to avoid inconvenience long notice was given of the change, and an advance of pay will be made to any officer who requires temporary assistance.

Rate Demand Notes — Particulars of Amounts required for Specific Purposes.

MR. LAYLAND-BARRATT (Devonshire, Torquay): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in any case where the persons responsible for the collection of rates in a borough have in addition to the legal form of demand for rates furnished the ratepayers on the demand note with particulars of the amounts required for specific purposes, including that of education, the Local Government Board have interfered in any way to prevent this being done.

(*Answered by Mr. Gerald Balfour.*) The Answer is in the negative.

Salaries of Irish National School Teachers.

MR. P. J. O'BRIEN (Tipperary, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the lowest class for a teacher and the lowest average attendance for a school to qualify for the special consideration mentioned in Rule 112 (e) of the 1905 issue of the Rules and Regulations of the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland; and will this rule apply retrospectively to those teachers who, being trained or in training when the revised salary rules came into operation on April 1st, 1900, have been compelled, irrespective of their classification and the importance of the schools entrusted to their charge, to accept third grade salary on their appointment as principals.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners require a classification of first division of second class; and they reserve to themselves the power of deciding, according to the merits of each case, whether the school is, in the terms of the rule, "large and important." The special consideration mentioned in the rule is given only to those assistants who were in the service before April, 1900, and who may now be appointed principals.

Evicted Tenants on the White Estate, near Bantry.

MR. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether an inspector has been appointed by the Estates Commissioners to inquire into the cases of evicted tenants on the White Estate, near Bantry; and, if so, what is the name of the gentleman.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The applications of these tenants for reinstatement has been reported upon by an inspector, but it is not usual or necessary to state the inspector's name.

Catholic Clerks in the Veterinary Branch of the Irish Agricultural Department.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the fact that it has been alleged that certain Catholic clerks in the veterinary branch of the Agricultural Department had made misstatements of facts in their reply to the secretary's minute condemning the Parliamentary action taken in their case, and seeing that both the text of the clerks' reply as well as particulars of their alleged misstatements have so far been withheld from the House, he will say what steps he proposes taking to enable the House to form an independent judgment on the whole matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The facts of the case have been repeatedly stated in the House in reply to the hon. Member's Questions. I do not propose to take any steps in the matter.

Clifden Harbour Improvements.

Mr. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state whether the improvement of the Clifden Harbour, for which £3,000 was allotted under the Marine Works Act, has yet commenced; and, if not, whether, in view of the importance to the fishing industry of this district, and also in view of the fact that distress at present prevails in the neighbourhood, steps will be taken to start this work without further delay.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The negotiations in respect of works at Clifden have not yet been brought to a conclusion. Measures for the relief of exceptional distress in the Clifden Union have already been adopted.

Arrest of the Owa of Ilesha.

Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL (Yorkshire, Cleveland): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any information as to the arrest of the Owa of Ilesha, in the Lagos Colony, on the 19th instant, and his deportation to Benin by order of the Governor of Lagos; and, if so, whether he will state what were the reasons for this action

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I have received no information on this subject.

Brigade of Guards—Deficiency of Officers.

Mr. COLSTON (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): To ask the Secretary of State for War when he proposes to fill up the vacancies in the junior ranks of the officers of the Brigade of Guards.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) I am not at present in a position to make any statement in regard to the measures to be taken to remedy the deficiency of officers in question.

Service Rifle—Cost if made in Government Factories or by Private Contractors.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the cost per rifle to the Government of the present service rifle when made in Government factories and when made by private contractors for the Government, respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The figures for the present long rifle for 1903–4 were: — Ordnance Factories, £2 14s. 4¼d.; Trade, £3 10s. 0d., and these prices are exclusive of cost of inspection and other Departmental expenses. The figures for the short rifle were given in reply to the hon. Member for the Epping Division of Essex on the 21st instant.†

Cost of Ammunition.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE: To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the cost to the Government per 1,000 rounds of the ·303 cordite ammunition as now issued.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The cost per 1,000 rounds of the Mark VI. ammunition for 1903–4 was—Ordnance Factories, £4 7s. 2¾d.; Trade (average), £4 10s. 0d. For the year 1904–5 the actual factories' price has not yet been worked out, but the trade average price is £4 8s. 6d. These prices are exclusive of cost of inspection and other Departmental expenses.

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† See page 641.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Solderless Tinning Syndicate—Admiralty Circulars.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that in January, 1902, the Admiralty issued a circular C.P. 57/575 to contractors for tinned goods, pointing out the advantages of the patent in the hands of the Maconochie's Solderless Tinning Syndicate, Limited, and the gain, in spite of the syndicate's royalty, resulting from the adoption of this new process, and that, in a circular in July, 1902, the Admiralty drew the attention of contractors to the fact that this syndicate were prepared to supply any Admiralty contractors with the requisite plant for making these tins at once and at cost price, he will give the names of those who form this syndicate.

The SECRETARY to the ADMIRALTY (Mr. Pretyman, Suffolk, Woodbridge): The Admiralty is not aware of the names of the persons forming the Maconochie Solderless Tinning Syndicate, Limited. The first circular, referred to in the hon. Member's Question, asked the opinion of leading provision preservers as to the advantages claimed by the syndicate for this tin. The second circular asked for alternative tenders for jam supplied in these tins and in ordinary tins.

Expenditure on His Majesty's Ship "Sultan."

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, with reference to the Return, Navy (Vessels struck off the Effective List), can he state as to His Majesty's ship "Sultan," completed in 1871 at a total cost of £506,455, and on which £204,913 was spent in raising and reconstructing her after she had been sunk near Malta, as well as £136,521 in repairs during the last ten years, or a total of £341,434, what has been the total sum expended on this ship, whether in raising her when a wreck, or in repairs, since her completion in 1871.

Mr. PRETYMAN: £132,570 of the £204,913 were spent in the ten years covered by column 6 of the Return, and are therefore included in the £136,521 shown in that column. The total sum expended upon the "Sultan" since her completion has been £411,358.

Highland Regiments.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state how many Highland regiments are quartered in the Highlands of Scotland, the strength of each regiment, the number of Gaelic-speaking ministers attached to these regiments, and whether weekly services are held in Gaelic.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.): There is one Highland regiment quartered in the Highlands, at Fort George, viz., the 1st Royal Highlanders. The strength of this battalion is 591, all ranks. As regards religious ministrations, all such arrangements are left in the hands of the General Officer Commanding, to whom the hon. Member should apply for the information he requires.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.), on a point of order, asked if the Secretary of State for War had not been guilty of a breach of Parliamentary privilege in referring the hon. Member for information to the commanding officer of the regiment, seeing that the right hon. Gentleman was himself responsible to the House.

*Mr. SPEAKER: That is obviously not a question of order.

Military Peat Moss Contracts at Belfast.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, in view of the fact that the military authorities in Belfast are at present advertising for some thousand tons of peat moss, he will give an undertaking that, having regard to the abundance of peat moss in Ireland, the peat moss for which tenders are invited will not be imported from Germany.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No restrictions are placed on the source of supply of the peat moss litter. Consideration will, however, be accorded to suitability and price.

Tinned Rations in the Egyptian and Soudan Campaigns.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state whether in recent campaigns in Egypt and the Soudan tins of preserved rations, closed in the ordinary way by solder and subjected to exceptional treatment under active service conditions as great or greater than that to which the rations in South Africa recently condemned were exposed, for the most part remained in a sound state; and what proportion, if any, of such tinned goods was it found necessary to destroy during those campaigns.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No special reports can now be traced of the destruction or condemnation of preserved rations during the recent campaigns in Egypt and the Soudan.

Captain NORTON: Surely it is known whether the supplies generally were satisfactory or whether a large proportion had to be destroyed as in the late war?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: It is a long time since, and no reports are available.

Captain NORTON: I shall draw attention to this matter later on.

Emergency Rations—Solderless Tinning.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what proportion of the 1,034,532 emergency rations, and of the 4,537,090 meat and vegetable rations, referred to in the last Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General as destroyed in South Africa, had been closed and insulated with non-deleterious paper by the patent process of the Maconochie's Solderless Tinning Syndicate, Limited, and what proportion hermetically sealed with solder in the ordinary way.

Captain NORTON: I beg also to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what proportion of the 497,125 emergency rations condemned at home and what proportion of the 365,600 of similar rations replaced by the contractor, many of which latter were subsequently found to be unsound, although guaranteed for two years and not sent out of this country, had been closed by the patent process of the Maconochie's Solderless Tinning Syndicate, Limited; and what proportion had been hermetically sealed with solder in the ordinary way.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: All tins of emergency rations supplied during the war were hermetically sealed with solder in the ordinary way. Certain tins of meat and vegetable rations supplied during the latter part of the war period were closed without solder, but the number is not known. So far as can be ascertained, about two-thirds of the tins were soldered and one-third were solderless.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman thought it desirable to refer to General Butler's Committee the question of adopting the one form or the other.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No, Sir. It is not, I think, a suitable matter to refer to the Committee.

Captain NORTON asked if the right hon. Gentleman would give the names of the gentlemen connected with the syndicate, seeing that the Secretary to the Admiralty suppressed that portion of his Question to him.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I will endeavour to answer a Question if the hon. and gallant Member will give notice of it.

*Mr. MACONOCHIE (Aberdeenshire, E.): May I ask whether the contractors paid for the material to replace the emergency rations at Woolwich, whether they were specially inspected, and whether the Government received the money for all material supplied?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes; I believe the facts are as stated by the hon. Member.

Militia Officers' Travelling Expenses.

Colonel LLEWELLYN (Somersetshire, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended this year to adopt the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Militia and Volunteer Forces, namely, that officers should travel to and from their homes at the public expense when attending training or courses, or called up for duty.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The recommendation in question refers to Militia officers. As stated in the Memorandum on Army Estimates, until the reductions in the Militia therein referred to have taken place it will not be possible to give effect to the principal recommendations of the Commission. It has not, therefore, been found practicable to carry out the recommendation alluded to in the Question.

Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

MR. CHARLES ALLEN (Gloucestershire, Stroud): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has any intention of proceeding with the enlargement of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst; and, if not, whether this will entail the abandonment of the previously arranged scheme for a two years course for cadets.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The Answer to the first Question is in the affirmative. Until the enlargement is effected, it will be necessary to reduce the course at the college from two years to twelve months in order to increase the output.

Army Clothing Wastage.

MR. LYELL (Dorsetshire, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for South Somersetshire, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can state the reason why the War Office did not retain in stock instead of selling a short time ago a large number of suits for discharged soldiers, seeing that they are now asking for tenders for 2,000 suits of similar clothing.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT, Cheshire, Macclesfield): The storage room occupied by the stock in question was urgently required for other more important purposes. The hon. Member will understand that the storage accommodation at the Royal Army Clothing Depot is limited.

The Transvaal War Loan.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the statement of Mr. F. Eckstein, to the effect that nothing would give the Rand mineowners greater pleasure than to be called upon to fulfil their obligations in respect of the £30,000,000 Transvaal Loan at once; and whether he will, in view of this statement, take steps to issue this loan.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington): I have seen the statement attributed to Mr. Eckstein, in the report of an interview in a weekly newspaper. I have nothing to add to what I said in this House on the 20th† and 22nd‡ of March.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: Was Mr. Eckstein one of those who agreed to underwrite the loan?

MR. LYTTELTON: Either he or his firm were included among the underwriters.

Halifax and Esquimault Defences.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN (Galway): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies when was the offer made by the Canadian Government to take over the defences at Halifax and Esquimault; what were the terms and conditions of the offer; and when and why was the offer refused.

MR. LYTTELTON: I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave on February 27th§ to a similar Question by the hon. Member for East Perthshire, from which he will learn the date and the terms of the offer, and will also perceive that the offer has not been refused.

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† See page 554.

‡ See page 825.

§ See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 1299.

Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt were, in the evidence given before the Select Committee of 1902 on Savings Banks Funds, admitted by the Controller-General of the National Debt to be practically a phantom body; and, if so, whether he will recommend the appointment of a Committee to consider the position and duties of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt, and to report whether any, and, if so, what, alterations should be made in the constitution and *status* of the body with the view of restoring to it the position of exercising control over the national finances.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN, Worcestershire, E.): No, Sir, I am not prepared to recommend the appointment of a Committee for the purpose suggested by the hon. Member. I may add that there is no foundation for the suggestion that it is the business of the National Debt Commissioners to control the national finances.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether it was not the fact that the Commissioners had never met since their appointment in 1862.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think they met once—in 1864, but I am not quite certain. The work of the Commissioners is carried on by the Controller's Office in frequent communication with and under the direction of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who consults the other Commissioners if he thinks it necessary.

DR. MACNAMARA: Have they ever met since their appointment.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I think once, but if the hon. Member wants particulars of these meetings and will put down an unstarred Question, I will, if I can, answer it.

Pension Regulations.

DR. MACNAMARA: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will consider the desirableness of providing for such alterations in existing regulations as will enable Civil servants who have served in the Army or the Navy to obtain recognition of non-pensioned military or naval service on being superannuated from the Civil Departments.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): The alteration suggested by the hon. Member could not be effected without legislation, and I do not think that such legislation is called for in the circumstances of the present time.

DR. MACNAMARA: Then if a man has served until he is eligible for an Army or Navy pension and then joins the Civil Service is he for that reason disqualified for the pension earned in the Army or Navy?

*MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH asked for notice to be given.

Licensing Regulations.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attenton has been drawn to the fact that, under his Licensing Rules, 1904, if the local bench, after objection by a member of the public, reports a licence as not required, the compensation authority at its preliminary meeting may decide forthwith to renew the licence without hearing the public objector, whereas the compensation authority has no power to refuse the renewal of a licence at the preliminary meeting, but can only refer it for final decision to the principal meeting, at which the licensee concerned must be summoned to attend; and, if so, whether he will modify his rules so as to secure for the public objector the right to be heard in person by any meeting of justices to which is entrusted the power of renewing a licence.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS, Kent, St. Augustine's): The hon. Member seems to be under a misapprehension. The compensation authority have no power, either under the Licensing Act, 1904, or the rules, to renew any licence. Section 1, Sub-section 2, of the Act provides that they may, if they think it expedient after hearing parties, refuse the renewal of a licence referred to them. If they do not think it expedient, the provisional renewal granted by the renewal authority under the Act and the rules continues in force. The right of the "public objector" (to use the hon. Member's phrase) to be heard before the justices who have power to renew licences is secured by the existing law, and is not affected by the rules, which I see, therefore, no reason to alter.

MR. LEIF JONES: Does the licence remain a provisional licence throughout the year?

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: I should like notice of that Question. If the hon. Member will see me privately on the subject I will give him full information.

Metropolitan Pneumatic Despatch Company's Bill.

SIR JOSEPH DIMSDALE (London): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the pending Bill for incorporating a company, under the name of the Metropolitan Pneumatic Despatch Company, for the purpose of laying pipes for pneumatic despatch under the streets of the county of London; and whether, having regard to the fact that a Royal Commission has under consideration the state of London streets and the best mode of preventing the congestion of traffic, he will oppose the grant of further powers of breaking up the streets and impeding traffic to a private company until that Commission has reported.

MR. BENN (Devonport): May I at the same time ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, having regard to the number of pipes and wires already occupying the subsoil of the principal London thoroughfares, and the interference with traffic arising from the breaking up of streets, the Government will oppose new and extensive powers of using the subsoil being granted to a private company such as that proposed to be constituted by the Pneumatic Despatch Company's Bill; and whether any communication on the subject of the Bill has taken place between the Government and the London County Council as the main drainage authority, the owner of an extensive system of London tramways, and the central representative authority of the Metropolis.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Lord STANLEY, Lancashire, Westhoughton): As this affects my Department, perhaps I may be allowed to reply. I have received representations from the London County Council and the Corporation of the City of London with reference to the Bill; those bodies point out the great inconvenience which will result to the inhabitants of London from so extensive an interference with the streets of the Metropolis as that contemplated by the proposed company. I share this view, and I am unable to see that any advantage for the postal service could be derived from the creation of a system of pneumatic despatch which would counterbalance the grave evils arising from the construction and maintenance of a new and extensive system of underground tubes. I therefore view with disfavour the proposals of the Bill, and am strongly of opinion that no such measure should be proceeded with until the Royal Commission which is considering the question of London traffic has made its Report. I am acting entirely in harmony with the City Corporation and the London County Council in this matter.

Postal Arrangements with Canada.

MR. CHARLES DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the statement made by the Secretary of State for Canada in the Senate at Ottawa, on February 22nd, 1905, that the policy of His Majesty's Government in refusing to accede to the repeated demands of the Canadian authorities for a reduction in certain postal arrangements was extraordinary, unwise, unsympathetic, and unpatriotic; and, if so, what action does His Majesty's Government intend taking.

LORD STANLEY: My attention has been called to the statement in question. The reasons which render it impossible for His Majesty's Government to accede to the request for the reduction of certain postal rates to Canada were fully explained by me recently in reply to a deputation. They are too long to give in Answer across the floor of the House, but I shall be happy to furnish the hon. Member with a report of my remarks. He will then see that there are two sides to this question.

Foreign Officers in the British Mercantile Marine.

MR. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he will state how many ships of the British mercantile marine are now commanded or officered by persons who are not British subjects.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. BONAR LAW, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Board of Trade have no information showing the number of British ships now commanded or officered by foreigners. The desired information for the year 1901 is contained in Parliamentary Paper, Cd. 1342.

Erosion of the English Coast.

MR. MARKS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he can state what area of land around the English coast has been lost within the last fifty years by erosion, and the approximate value of such land.

MR. BONAR LAW: I regret that the Board of Trade are unable to give even an approximate estimate of the area and value of the land which has been lost within the last fifty years by erosion around the English coast.

Motor-Car Speeds in the Parks.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether he is aware that a case concerning the legal validity of the regulations prescribing ten miles an hour in the parks is now under appeal to the High Court; and whether, until that appeal is decided, he will allow the ordinary law of the land to apply and cease prosecutions which may be illegal.

LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): The reply to the first paragraph is in the affirmative. The First Commissioner regrets that he is unable to give any pledge pending the decision of the case.

MR. SCOTT-MONTAGU: When is the decision of the High Court likely to be given?

LORD BALCARRES: I cannot say; we have no control over His Majesty's Judges or the High Court, but we are as anxious as anybody to get the decision without delay.

North Sea Fisheries Scientific Investigations.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will state whether any Fishery Board cruisers have been utilised for the purposes of the North Sea Fisheries Scientific Investigations; and, if so, will he name the vessels so employed, and state for what period they were respectively engaged.

*THE LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. SCOTT DICKSON, Glasgow, Bridgton): No Fishery Board cruisers have been utilised for the purposes of the North Sea Fisheries Scientific Investigations.

Long Island Medical Officer of Health.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate whether the Secretary for Scotland has yet received a report from the Lewis District Committee relative to the appointment of a medical officer of health for the Long Island; and in the event of effect being given to the suggestion, will arrangements be made for the new officer to be responsible to the Local Government Board direct, and not to the medical officer of health for the county.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: The Answer to the first part of the hon. Member's Question is in the negative. With regard to the second part I have nothing to add to the reply given to the hon. Member on March 14th.†

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxlii., 1384.

MR. WEIR: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered the latter part of my Question.

*MR. SCOTT DICKSON: If the hon. Member will look at the reply given on the 14th he will find I have given all the information I have.

Absconding Newry Rate Collector.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland, with reference to the case of the absconding rate collector in Newry, whether he has ascertained that Livingstone, as sole executor of the will of the late Francis Fearon, received over £900 of trust money; that instead of investing this money in the names of the beneficiaries he invested part of it in his own name in the Carlingford Steamship Company and in the Dundalk and Newry Steamship Company; and that he subsequently sold these shares and embezzled the proceeds as well as the balance which he had not invested; if so, whether he can state why the Crown held that these facts did not afford sufficient reason for applying in Canada for the execution of the warrant issued against him in Newry; and whether, in view of the fact that he subsequently embezzled the funds entrusted to him as rate collector, he will state whether steps will now be taken to enforce the warrant issued in the case.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. ATKINSON, Londonderry, N.): I have already explained to the hon. Member that a prosecution in such a case as this can only be instituted with the consent of the Attorney-General, and that my fiat was never asked for or obtained before the warrant was issued; that Fearon and his solicitor were informed what legal evidence should be furnished before any action could be taken to have Livingstone brought back to this country; that no such evidence has ever been furnished, and no legal evidence ever tendered to prove any of the several statements of facts mentioned in the Question. The absence of such evidence is the reason why the Crown have not taken any action. The Newry Urban Council complained to the police that Livingstone had appropriated a large sum of money belonging to them, but refused to have any information sworn in support of that charge, preferring to sue his sureties in a civil Court, which they have done. The Answer to the last query is in the negative.

MR. MACVEAGH: Why did not the police inquire of the local authority? Is there any doubt whatever as to the facts mentioned in the Question?

MR. ATKINSON: The urban council refused the information, and before the Attorney-General can authorise a prosecution he must have evidence before him sufficient to justify his sanction being given.

MR. MACVEAGH: If evidence is now laid before the right hon. Gentleman will he apply for this man's extradition?

MR. ATKINSON: If proper evidence is laid I shall be only too happy to take the necessary proceedings.

Irish Department of Agriculture—English and Scotch Officials.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many English and how many Scotch people are employed in Ireland by the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, and what is the gross amount of salary paid to them; and whether, in the making of future appointments, the Department will take into consideration the claims of Irish candidates to employment in their own country.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. WALTER LONG, Bristol, S.): The Department have no record of the nationality of the members of their staff. In making appointments the Department endeavours to secure the services of those who, in their opinion, are best qualified for the discharge of the particular work required.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Will the right hon. Gentleman, in answering a Question of this kind, try to give us facts. It is scarcely respectful to answer the Question in the way he has done. Everybody knows the nationality of these men.

Mr. WALTER LONG: I gave the Answer in precisely the same form as I should have done had it been addressed to me at the Local Government Board Office. I said the Department have no records. That is the case.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Who was that Answer prepared by, was it by Sir Horace Plunkett, who ought either to be in this House to answer Questions or to resign. It is a fallacious Answer. [Cries of "Order."] Yes, it is fallacious.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is not entitled to comment on the Answer.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I am commenting, Sir, on the conduct of those who by calling me to order are seeking to usurp your position.

Irish Public Loan Fund Board.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the cost of administration of the Public Loan Fund Board of Ireland is derived wholly or in part from the profits derived from the compulsory purchase of stationery by local loan fund societies from the Loan Fund Office in Dublin Castle; and, if so, will the Government take the necessary steps to abolish this monopoly and to defray the cost of administration of the Public Loan Fund Board out of the Imperial Treasury.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The expenses of administration of this Board are derived in part from the sale of promissory note and debenture forms, under the authority of 6 and 7 Vic., cap. 91, Sec. 46, and 35 and 36 Vic., cap. 17, Sec. 2. The Government are in no way responsible for the administration of the Loan Fund Board. The reply to the second inquiry is in the negative.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is not the purchase of the stationery compulsory under the statute?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I ought to have notice of that Question. I can only give the facts as they reach me.

Donegal Farm Prize Scheme.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Department of Agriculture in Ireland has requested the secretary of the County of Donegal Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction to prepare a map of county Donegal, showing the residence of each entrant under the Farm Prize Scheme, 1905; and, if so, will he state for what purpose such a map is considered necessary; and whether, in view of the trouble and cost that the preparation of such a map would involve, he will say from what fund such expense would be defrayed, and direct that the information given in the entry forms shall be used to enable the officials of the Department to locate the competitors.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Yes, Sir. The map is required for the convenience of the itinerant instructors in agriculture, who are supplied free of cost to the county, to act as judges under the scheme of prizes for cottages and small farms. The only expense would be the cost of a county index map, viz., 2s. 6d., which would be defrayed out of the administrative expenses of the scheme. It is apprehended that but little trouble would be involved in marking on the map the approximate location of competing holdings.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is not this map rendered essential owing to the ignorance of the itinerant instructors?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! I must ask the hon. Member to refrain from commenting on the Answers.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: It is the only chance one has.

Galway Guardians and Education Rule No. 127b.

Mr. CHARLES DEVLIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received a copy of the resolution adopted by the board of guardians of Galway Union at their meeting, held on 22nd instant, protesting against the new rule, No. 127b, issued by the Board of

National Education, Ireland, complaining that the enforcement of this rule would mean the withdrawal from their schools of the male assistant teachers of Ireland, and asking for the withdrawal of the rule in question; and, if so, what action does he propose taking in the matter.

MR. WALTER LONG: The resolution has been received. I have already stated that the Commissioners will specially consider any case in which the enforcement of the rule would lead to the disemployment of an assistant teacher.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): Will the Commissioners consider the propriety of withdrawing the rule altogether in view of the objection raised to it?

MR. WALTER LONG: I have stated they are not inclined to do that, but they will consider individual cases.

Castlederg and Killeter No. 2 Dispensary District.

MR. HEMPHILL (Tyrone, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to a letter of Mr. John McGlinchy, dated March 6th instant, sending to the Local Government Board a petition signed by 220 ratepayers in the Castlederg and Killeter No. 2 Dispensary District of Castlederg Union, North Tyrone, relative to the place of residence of the medical officer, and complaining that his residence is on the bounds of the district, which imposed on many of the destitute poor when requiring medical aid the necessity of travelling up to twelve miles in all weathers for the purpose of obtaining it; and, if so, will he take the necessary steps to obviate this, and insure that the medical officer may take up his abode in a central position in his district which will be reasonably accessible to all the poor inhabitants who are entitled to medical aid.

MR. WALTER LONG: The petition did not allege that any hardship to the sick poor had resulted from the position of the medical officer's residence. The officer in question has complied with the terms of his appointment by residing within his district, and the Board see no reason for interfering in the matter, upon the facts at present before them.

County Kerry Evicted Tenants.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have taken any steps to effect the reinstatement of Messrs. David and Daniel Loughnan, Kilmurry, Cordal, Castleisland, county Kerry, whose holdings have been lying derelict since the time of their eviction; and, if not, when the Commissioners may be expected to take such steps in the interest of the evicted tenants.

MR. WALTER LONG: Applications for reinstatement have been received, but the estate concerned has not yet come before the Commissioners.

MR. MURPHY: But having regard to the fact that these farms are derelict, cannot the right hon. Gentleman instruct the Estates Commissioners to enter into negotiations with reference to them?

MR. WALTER LONG: It is not the intention of the Irish Government to interfere with the order in which the Estates Commissioners deal with applications.

MR. MURPHY: But these are derelict evicted farms and they could move quickly.

MR. WALTER LONG: They are perfectly competent to deal with these cases themselves.

MR. MURPHY: I think they are perfectly incompetent.

Caldbeck Estate, Queen's County.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the report of the inspector in the case of the Caldbeck Estate, Ballacolla, Queen's County, has yet been considered by the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, can he say what course they propose taking with respect to the distribution of the untenanted land, which comprises half the estate, and for which claims have been submitted on behalf of thirty-four small occupiers in the locality.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The inspector's report is under the consideration of the Commissioners.

De Freyne Estates.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Congested Districts Boards have yet concluded negotiations for the purchase of the De Freyne Estates in the counties of Roscommon, Sligo, and Galway; and whether he can give the particulars as to price for the different classes of tenancy, the number of tenants, the amount of untenanted land, valuation, rental, and total price.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Negotiations have not yet been concluded.

Kerry Fair Rent Appeals.

Mr. FLAVIN (Kerry, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state when the Chief Land Commission will sit in Kerry to hear fair rent appeals.

Mr. WALTER LONG: It has been provisionally arranged that a sitting will be held at Killarney on June 27th.

Mr. FLAVIN: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman give a more definite reply?

Mr. WALTER LONG: What possibly could be more definite than the actual date—June 27th.

Trinity College Tenantry.

Mr. FLAVIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state when the Report of the Commission appointed to inquire into the relations between Trinity College and their tenants will be published; and whether he will circulate the same as a Parliamentary Paper for the use of Members of the House.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners expect to complete their Report about the middle of next month. The question of issuing the Report as a Parliamentary Paper will be decided when it is received.

Mr. FLAVIN: Does the right hon. Gentleman consider "next month" definite?

[No Answer was returned.]

Mahon Estate, County Galway.

Mr. ROCHE (Galway, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a portion of the Mahon Estate, Ballydonlon, county Galway, purchased by the Estates Commissioners, is to be given to a Mr. Rothwell, petty sessions clerk of Ballinasloe, who was never a tenant on the estate, and who does not live within miles of it, seeing that Mr. Rothwell is already in possession of more than one farm elsewhere.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The purchase of this estate by the tenants was completed in April last. Mr. Rothwell was not one of the purchasers.

Dual Duties in the Dublin Post Office.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that it is the custom to send men appointed on the telegraph side in Dublin to the sorting office at a moment's notice, where they have to take up duties which they are unaccustomed to; if when employed in the sorting office these men make mistakes, will their want of practice be taken into account when their increments are considered; and, when they eventually return to the telegraph room, will due allowance be made for their absence from the instruments if any mistakes are made in important public messages.

Lord STANLEY: I have no information, but I will make inquiry on the subject to which the hon. Member refers.

Dual Working in Irish Post Offices.

Mr. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware, notwithstanding the statement made by Mr. Kirkwood in answer to the Irish witnesses before the Bradford Committee that in large offices dual working had only to be undertaken during the first few years of service, that officers with over five years service are still employed on dual working in Dublin; and can he say what grounds Mr. Kirkwood had for making this statement when the performance of dual duties was being advanced as a claim for extra remuneration.

LORD STANLEY: The hon. Member has omitted the words "as a rule" from the evidence given by the official witness. It is a fact, as stated by the witness, that "at the larger offices dual working has as a rule only to be undertaken for the first few years of service." The present conditions at Dublin are due to the falling off in the telegraph traffic, which has necessitated a transfer of staff to the sorting office, where their services are required.

Dublin Telegraph Clerks' Grievances.

MR. NANNETTI: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General is he aware that sixteen sorting clerks and telegraphists in Dublin appointed to the telegraph side have within the past few years been repeatedly sent to the sorting office at a moment's notice, and have as a consequence to perform irregular duties; and whether, seeing that such withdrawal from the instrument room interferes with their efficiency as telegraphists, and that public work is endangered when handled by telegraphists out of practice, and, having regard to his condemnation of this system when speaking on last year's Estimates, will he see that it is abolished; and further, is he aware that, although these men have been removed from the instrument room on the plea of surplus staff, since their removal as many as 126 hours overtime were performed in the instrument room.

LORD STANLEY: The officers to whom the hon. Member refers are, under the conditions of their appointment, liable to serve either on the telegraph or on the postal side. Their employment on postal work does not produce the serious results which the hon. Member apprehends. As regards the last part of his Question, I will make inquiry.

Public Servants and Vaccination.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury, seeing that candidates for the public service are not allowed to take up appointments unless they have been vaccinated, and that this regulation penalises candidates who have a conscientious objection to vaccination, will he take such steps as may be necessary to enable such candidates to obtain exemption from the rule enforcing vaccination.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I cannot quite understand the use of the word conscientious in the Question. I do not see how anybody can conscientiously object to being vaccinated.

MR. WEIR: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman understand that I may have a conscience, and in my conscience I may object?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I can understand an objection to being vaccinated, just as I can understand objection to sleeping in an insanitary room; but the objection is not a conscientious one; it has nothing to do with conscience.

MR. WEIR: I will furnish the right hon. Gentleman with the case of one person who has a conscience.

Highland Regiments.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Imperial Committee of Defence will consider the difficulties in adopting any War Office scheme which seeks to group Highland regiments with Lowland regiments, divest them of the kilt, and quarter them with Lowland regiments in the Lowlands of Scotland.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I am told there is to be no grouping of Highland with Lowland regiments, that there is no change to be made as regards their quarters, and that there is no idea of divesting Highland regiments of their kilts.

Compensation for Improvements of Town Holdings.

MR. BENN: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will introduce legislation to enable persons living in towns in Great Britain to enjoy like advantages to those living in agricultural districts in respect of compensation for improvements executed as tenants of lands and buildings held by lease.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am not prepared to extend our present programme of legislation.

Prevention of Corruption Bill.

Mr. BARRAN (Leeds, N.): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of recent disclosures in connection with the supply of goods to Government Departments, he will give facilities for passing during the present session through this House the Prevention of Corruption Bill, introduced into the House of Lords by the Lord Chancellor, and which has already been passed by that House several times.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am afraid that the condition of public business prevents me giving an assurance such as the hon. Gentleman desires.

The Fiscal Retaliation Resolution.

Mr. CHURCHILL (Oldham): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury a Question of which I regret I have not been able to give him private notice—whether his attention has been drawn to a Resolution standing on the Journals of the House which runs as follows:—"Resolved, *nemine contradicente*, That, in view of the declarations made by the Prime Minister, this House thinks it necessary to record its condemnation of his policy of fiscal retaliation;" what precedents can be cited in favour of a Government ignoring such a Resolution; if he proposes to ask the House to expunge that Resolution from its Journals, and, if so, when; or whether, if the Resolution stands, he considers retention of office consonant with his public duty or personal honour.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am sorry the hon. Gentleman did not take the ordinary course of giving me notice of his Question, because if he had done so I would have made myself acquainted with what appears to have taken place last night. At present my sole knowledge is derived from the Question the hon. Member has put to me.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): Will not the right hon. Gentleman say if he means to take any step in regard to the Resolution? If he was not here last night, surely he could have made himself acquainted with what occurred through the ordinary channels of information?

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): I only wish to ask one short and simple Question. Is the right hon. Gentleman still Leader of the House of Commons?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am Leader of the House of Commons so long as the majority of that House gives me its confidence. If the right hon. Gentleman doubts whether that is the present fact, there are means at his disposal for testing it.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): Where were your followers last night?

Mr. CHURCHILL: The right hon. Gentleman has not answered any one of the Questions I put to him; and, if I rightly understand him, he requires notice; and, if so, I will put down the Question for to-morrow.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have now read the Resolution. What is it the hon. Member asks?

Mr. CHURCHILL: I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he proposes to ask the House of Commons to expunge the Resolution; what precedent he can cite in favour of the Government's ignoring a Resolution which specifically condemns their official policy; and whether, while the Resolution stands, he considers his retention of office consonant with his public duty or his personal honour.

*Mr. SPEAKER: The last phrase is one that should be withdrawn.

Mr. CHURCHILL: If it goes beyond the limit which Parliamentary language should allow, I willingly leave out the last phrase. I have no desire to go further than the extreme limits of Parliamentary language will allow.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I raise no objection to any language the hon. Gentleman may use. I rate it at its true value. I propose to take no action in the matter. I do not see that any action is required.

NEW BILL.

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) BILL.

"To amend The Education Act, 1902," presented by Mr. Arthur Henderson; supported by Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Bell, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Broadhurst, Sir John Gorst, Mr. Thomas Richards, Dr. Macnamara, and Mr. Keir Hardie; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 11th April, and to be printed. [Bill 132.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. J. W. LOWTHER (Cumberland, Penrith) in the Chair.]

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1905-6.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a number of Land Forces not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

*SIR JOHN COLOMB (Great Yarmouth) said he listened on the preceding night with very deep attention to the speech of the Secretary of State for War, a speech which enabled them to understand the working of the right hon. Gentleman's mind and of that of the Government, and to appreciate the attitude of himself and his colleagues upon the question of Army reform. The first part of that speech was a clear and emphatic repudiation of the principle upon which all former schemes, for the last forty years, of Army reform had proceeded. The second part dealt with the logical consequence of the adoption of a wholly different basis on which to reconstruct the Army system; while the third part of the speech was an exposition of the difficulties of the situation rather than a declaration of decisions already arrived at, and the concluding portion really was a sort of reconnaissance in order to ascertain the Parliamentary situation and to see how far the logical consequences of the principle adopted could be pushed in dealing with military problems in the House itself. The right hon. Gentleman was justified in endeavouring to discover how far the House of Commons was prepared to accept the logical consequences of the new principle that had been adopted, because no scheme of reform could be carried out unless it secured the assent of the House and of the country, and when they remembered how complete was the reversal of the principle hitherto guiding our Army policy authoritatively laid down by Governments—when they considered that reversal—they were bound to feel that it must take some time before the House and the country could fully grasp the consequences. The right hon. Gentleman was therefore wise to advance cautiously, in order to carry the House and the country with him. That was the state of affairs which the Government had now to face.

There had been many voluminous criticisms, in and out of the House, on the action of the Government, and on the action of the right hon. Gentleman in respect to Army reform, but one thing was clear, and that was that the criticism had not been directed against anything the Government or the War Office had actually done. On the contrary, that seemed to have been accepted with great unanimity by Parliament, but the criticism had been directed against what they had not done. No credit had been given for what they had done, but the right hon. Gentleman and the Government were attacked and scolded for leaving undone the things they ought to have done. When they listened to those criticisms, what did they find? They found that those who were most violent in their attacks had no alternative policy to offer. It appeared to him that this group of critics of the

Government policy was very much in the position of the costermonger who asserted, "If you won't let me drive the apple-cart I'll upset it." They were ready to upset the Government, but they could show no alternative policy. Their trumpets blared forth criticism of the Government, but they could not agree among themselves on a practical policy. That was the situation which the Government had to face in the present House of Commons. What had they done so far? They had reconstituted the War Office, an undertaking which had appalled most Governments and which every Government had in turn shirked. If they looked upon the history of Army reform, they would find one continued long wail as to the incompetence of the War Office, and yet no Government had had the courage to tackle that question. This Government, however, in a very short time had reconstructed that office and had accomplished a task which previous Governments feared to touch. They had also done a great deal towards the devolution of military administration. They had found themselves face to face with a situation of extreme danger in respect of drafts for India, and they had made a departure in policy which was full of future possibilities. They had, for instance, come to an agreement with the Canadian Government to relieve the mother country of the cost of the garrisons of Halifax and Esquimault, and he regretted very much that they were called upon to discuss these Estimates in the absence of the correspondence with the Canadian Government on this question, the production of which had been promised. They wanted to know the full effect of that correspondence. The fact remained, however, that these things had been done, and the Government had made essential progress in carrying out principles which had been so long desired by all students of the question of Imperial defence.

The causes of the failure of the numerous Army reform schemes which had been brought forward were two-fold —first, proceeding on a false principle, which ignored the influence of sea-power upon military policy; and secondly, the persistent refusal to face the facts of our geographic position and economic circumstances. Further than that, former Ministers had hurried their schemes through in order to avoid the country finding out this mistake. Much waste and confusion had arisen in consequence. But there was another and more modern feature connected with the discussions in this House to which he wished to call attention, and that was that they had a group of hon. Members who had had a few months experience of operations in the field, and therefore thought themselves competent to deal with the full problem of Imperial defence. He did not want to say anything unpleasant, but it seemed to him, so far as the House was concerned, that the South African War had produced a noxious growth of mushroom Napoleons, and that had these exponents of the right way to deal with the Army lived in Germany twenty years ago they would no doubt have condemned Moltke as a slow coach and bustled him along. But the development of a sound policy suited to the military requirements of the Empire was a matter which ought to be cautiously dealt with, they should only proceed with it step by step. He realised that they had to deal with forces created in a totally different condition of affairs, and that that produced a complicated problem which it must take time to solve. Therefore, he would not join with those—and he envied them their youth, eagerness, and impetuosity—who were urging the Government to take a precipitate course in Army reform. It was a testimony to the reality of the efforts of the War Office that they were not going too fast, and he would raise no note of discontent because the Government, having defined the principle which was guiding them, were not sending up balloons and fireworks to catch a passing popularity, but appreciated the full responsibility of the task devolving upon them of trying to adapt existing forces to the true principles which they had accepted.

In regard to their general scheme, he must say that he heartily concurred in the decision that whatever else happened, the cavalry and field artillery, who took a long time to create and train, should be kept at a higher standard of relative strength than other branches of the

Army which did not take so long to train. He thought it was greatly to the credit of the Government that these most expensive forces were to have this attention, and that they were not giving way to a false cry of economy, but were determined to keep those forces ready for any emergency. He was glad also to see in their policy a clear intention to look closely at the expenditure on the Royal Engineers. The right hon. Gentleman had said that his work in that direction was not completed, and he was not satisfied that the expenditure on that force might not be modified or reduced. For that he thought the Government deserved credit. Then there was another branch of the Army to which he would like to refer, and that was the Garrison Artillery. He would like to point out to the right hon. Gentleman and the House that the arm of the service which had developed most rapidly of late years had been the Garrison Artillery, and the rate of the increase in that force which was now a tremendous charge on the Estimates was due to the collateral position created by disbelief in our sea power. He trusted that his right hon. friend in developing his scheme would remember that, and bear in mind that this large force of Garrison Artillery was created as a necessary corollary to a false principle that an enemy's fleets and armies would be able to move across the sea and attack any place they liked. It was, therefore, an exaggerated War Office notion of naval probabilities which caused fortresses to be created all over the world, and thereby necessitated the increase of the Garrison Artillery force. He presumed the right hon. Gentleman had his close attention fixed upon that point, which required special scrutiny in view of the change of principle in our policy.

He did not propose to touch upon naval questions, but allusion had been made by the right hon. Gentleman to the fact that arrangements had been devised for handing over the aquatic defence, to which a large portion of our Army was devoted, to the Navy, and he thought that when the question came to be thoroughly threshed out it would be found that this work might well be undertaken by men in the Navy and Marines over a certain age, and that it could thus be done more efficiently and with greater economy to the country. Then he came to the question of the infantry, to the question of long service and short service. He would not dwell upon that. He agreed entirely in the principle of the policy. Seeing that they had to keep such a very large force abroad during peace he confessed he did not see how they could, out of a necessarily long-service system in peace, create such a reserve as it was necessary for them to have in case of an outbreak of war. It was, therefore, necessary that there should be two classes of service in the Army, long and short. He must express his personal regret that the scheme of short-service battalions had not been based more largely on the Militia. It was a matter of opinion, no doubt, but he thought himself that had the Secretary of State, instead of creating entirely a new system of Regular short-service battalions, built one up upon the Militia system, he would have found less opposition in the country and in Parliament. He himself felt somewhat uncertain as to whether the Militia had altogether been sufficiently recognised as the basis on which to build up the short-service system which really was the nursery of Reservists. He did not pay much attention to arguments founded upon the present relative value of Militia battalions to one another, because since the districts were originally arranged there had been a considerable redistribution of population which had altered the possible conditions of strength and efficiency. If the right hon. Gentleman had proceeded to re-allocate the Militia according to the distribution of the population he would have had a broad Militia basis on which to develop his short-service battalions. He was glad to think the right hon. Gentleman was not regarding that as hostile criticism but rather as a reasonable observation. [Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER assented.] Of course the first step to be contemplated in such a programme as building up the Militia was the extent and area of Militia service and the rendering the force liable for service oversea. If the Government would make up their mind to pursue that policy he believed it would be a step in the right direction. But, of course, the bed-rock of all their difficulties was the difficulty of getting men.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER, Belfast, W.): No.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB: Of getting any sufficient number for the requirements of a great war. The present inflow of recruiting was to some extent attributable to the condition of trade at the present moment. Looking at it broadly, it must be admitted that the class from which soldiers had hitherto been drawn was a diminishing class.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: No.

*SIR JOHN COLOMB said that was his individual opinion, and the question was whether they could offer sufficient inducements to men of a different and higher class to enter the Army. He looked upon conscription as an idle dream: he did not believe this country would submit to it to provide for oversea service. What, then, were they to do? He thought that the country would not be sincere in its treatment of this question till it really appreciated the proportion and magnitude of modern war and the insufficiency of our forces to meet the conditions which might at any day arrive. When the country was sincere it would find its way of escape by a very simple arrangement. That was to secure that the only gate into any civil employment in the State should be through the ranks of the Army. He believed that would in the future—and a not very distant future—prove to be the only means of providing a British Army for oversea service which was the only Army we should require in time of war.

Now he came to the real crux of the whole matter — the question of the Volunteers — and that completed his review of the reform scheme. In regard to the Volunteers, he yielded to no man in his appreciation of their efforts and of the spirit which created them. When the force was first constituted he was one of those who were selected to help in those great gatherings which took place, and he learned to appreciate the spirit which animated them. Although there was then a professional hostile feeling against the force, he certainly did not share it. But he held, and for forty years had persistently preached that to maintain a gigantic army of Volunteers to repel a great invasion of these shores was incompatible with the doctrine of sea supremacy. At last his view had been accepted by the Government. The difficulty of the Government, now that this force had been created under a false conception of military necessity, was to decide what to do with it. What could they do with a force of 240,000 armed units when they had come to the deliberate conclusion that its maintenance was imcompatible with their true policy. They could not immediately wipe it out of existence, and the process of reduction must be slow. The alternative to a large reduction was to apply the Volunteers to the purposes of service over-sea; but in that case they must catch their Volunteers who were willing to go first, and secure men who were prepared in an emergency to submit to a call for service abroad. He did not think for one moment that the Volunteers would accept that alternative. If hon. Members thought otherwise let them organise a deputation to the Secretary for War with a view of entreating him to circularise colonels of Volunteers, directing them to invite their men who would sign an agreement to serve over-sea in a great emergency to send in their names. Such a proceeding would, he believed, prove up to the hilt that the circumstances and nature of the civil employment of Volunteers rendered it impossible for them to enter into any such obligation. He did not believe 10 per cent. of the men would sign. ["Oh, oh!"] Well, let hon. Members try, and if only 10 per cent. did sign, it meant that they would have to incur the expense of maintaining one hundred Volunteers in order to secure the services of ten men when occasion arose. Would the Volunteer force then be a cheap force? If the House sincerely accepted the doctrine that a great invasion of this country was impossible, the only possible course to pursue with regard to the Volunteers was to reduce them to a certain standard. It was a question of fixing the number that was really the crux of the matter. He thought the Government were shirking the question or fixing numbers too much. He had not heard from the Government any indication of the number of men in the Militia and Volunteers needed for the requirements of the Empire. It was no use fencing with the question. They must determine the standard for the Army on the principle of their military necessities under the conditions of a supreme Fleet, and then they must apply that principle to the Volunteers. Admitting the possibility of a temporary raid on the coast—though he did not admit the probability—he thought the standard should be fixed at a number which could successfully deal with such a contingency, that the disposition of the Volunteers for the defence of the coast should be arranged with a view to dealing with small and insignificant raids, and that the Militia and Regular Army should be relieved from all duties in connection with attempted landing.

In conclusion, he desired to refer once more to the fact that there had been a total reversal of the principle upon which, for some fifty years, our Army policy had been founded. It was not a new departure, but a return to the old policy by which the Empire was made—the doctrine of a free sea, with a free Army, with its corollary that the low-water mark of the enemy's coast and not our own coast was our frontier. The tangle of our present military confusion arose from the fact that fifty years ago the War Office started the theory that steam fleets were not to be relied upon, and year by year the idea was developed, until two or three years ago the climax was reached when the Secretary of State for War calmly declared that Members must not confuse their minds on the Army problem by thinking about the Navy. That, he thought, awakened the House and the country to the absolute irreconcilability of an armed invasion while we had predominance at sea. Without that predominance we cannot live. Our present military arrangements were the product of that great mistake, and it was for whatever Government that happened to be in power so to deal with the forces created under that idea as to make them fit for the real and not the sham purposes of war. The difficulties were not so much military as political. When the Government were dealing with any great problem involving expenditure they had to consider the relations of Parties in this House and popular feeling in the country, and that was what made the difficulty in the question of the Volunteers. Personally, he thought the difficulty in course of time would solve itself. The Volunteers themselves were most intelligent thinking men; hitherto they had been encouraged by War Ministers to believe that the country was really in danger of a great invasion, and that they must undergo sacrifices to be ready to resist such invasion; but when they realised that this was only a fad of a defunct War Office and not a fact, they would not consider it necessary or desirable to incur so much self-sacrifice to provide for an emergency which could never arise. On the other hand, if the authorities asked for a real sound force of Volunteers charged with and responsible for the defence of different parts of the coast against small and reckless raids, they would get the very cream of men who, while they could not give over-sea service, were ready to submit to some hardship to perform definite military duties at home. Military arrangements had their ramifications in every grade of society. It was impossible to touch any branch of the service without creating political friction, and when listening to the speeches of distinguished Volunteers in the House he could not help asking himself whether the people of Sheffield, the Isle of Wight, Plymouth, and other places represented by these Volunteer officers really believed that the Volunteers were to rule Parliament, and that Parliament was not to rule the Volunteers. It could not be denied that the Volunteer vote was an important vote, having political influence on the mind of any Government; but he believed that the spread of the truth and a wider comprehension of the obligations and duties of the Empire under conditions of sea supremacy would eventually overcome the difficulties with which the Secretary for War was now confronted. He hoped that both Parties would keep their eyes fixed on the military necessities of the Empire, and manfully crush the opposition which arose from considerations of popularity, which would have to be overcome if the Empire was to be preserved.

Major SEELY (Isle of Wight), in moving a reduction of 10,000 men, expressed his appreciation of the speech of the hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth, but said his pleasure at finding how near to common agreement were those who wished to arrive at a proper conception of the country's real needs was slightly tinged with regret that he should have implied that Members who happened to be Volunteer officers were influenced by their constituents in thinking it unwise to reduce the Volunteers. He could assure the hon. and gallant Member that he had no desire to influence votes by his support of the Volunteers. Those with whom he acted on Army questions took a view on this question totally different from that of the hon. and gallant Member, but he hoped completely to convert not only the hon. and gallant Member but also the Secretary of State for War. The suggestion that the Volunteers would not go abroad if an emergency arose was a serious allegation, but when the question was last under discussion the Secretary of State for War made a still more serious allegation by saying that the idea that the Volunteers formed any real reserve in case of war was a complete delusion. He hoped to show that the complete delusion was on the side of the Secretary of State for War. It so happened that he was one of many Members of the House who were concerned in the call to arms made during the South African War, when it was really ascertained whether or not the Volunteers would prove a reserve in case of necessity. The hon. and gallant Member for Yarmouth suggested that the Prime Minister should be asked to institute an inquiry as to how many of the Auxiliary Forces would volunteer in the future under certain hypothetical circumstances.

*Sir JOHN COLOMB said his point was as to how many would hold themselves in readiness to go abroad in case of emergency.

Major SEELY suggested that a more fruitful matter for discussion was what actually did happen in a period of great national stress, when this very question was asked of the Volunteers and Yeomanry. At that time the War Office decided to call only for a certain number of Volunteers, and when, say, 100 were asked for, it could not be ascertained how many were really prepared to go. But in a few cases—and it was on this point he proposed to convert the hon. and gallant Gentleman and to ask the Secretary of State for a public apology for his statement on the subject—Volunteers without any limit of number were asked for, and he had particulars of the response made. From the Queen's Westminster 690 volunteered; from the London Scottish, 500; and from the 4th Battalion Queen's, 635 men and 20 officers. The hon. and gallant Member suggested 10 per cent., but did he suppose that these figures did not represent a considerably greater proportion than that?

*Sir JOHN COLOMB said he was speaking not of the Metropolitan corps only, but of the whole Volunteer force.

Major SEELY said that on the 10 per cent. basis the 1st Volunteer Battalion Middlesex should have provided 69·7 men, but, as a matter of fact, 510 were anxious to go to the front. From the 1st Volunteer Battalion Argyll Royal Garrison Artillery, with an establishment probably of about 500, 300 volunteered, and from the 1st Volunteer Battalion Manchesters, although it was said only a small number of Volunteers were required, 370 men and three officers came forward. From these figures, which he had been able to obtain since the Secretary of State's amazing statement that it was a delusion to suppose that the Volunteers were of any use to serve oversea——

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Those are not my words.

Major SEELY said he had the words with him, and what the right hon. Gentleman stated was that it was a complete delusion to suppose that the Volunteers could be regarded as of real value as a reserve in time of war for service oversea.

An HON. MEMBER asked how many of those who volunteered were physically qualified for service abroad.

MAJOR SEELY said he had not the figures with him.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Five per cent of the Queen's Westminsters were unfit.

MAJOR SEELY said that if the hon. and gallant Member who asked the question meant to imply that the general standard of fitness in the Volunteers was such that it was not worth while maintaining them, he would suggest that the number of recruits for the Regular Army rejected for unfitness was a more fruitful subject for discussion. The figures he had given showed that the Volunteers were ready to furnish from 60 or 70 per cent. of their total strength to serve oversea in a time of national emergency. That was the bed-rock on which the supporters of the Volunteers stood. He was prepared to go further, and confidently to assert that had the War Office frankly said to the Volunteer force that they were at the end of their resources for men, and that they wanted every Volunteer they could get to go to South Africa, 99 per cent. of the whole force would have come forward. He hoped those figures would convince the hon. and gallant Member that he had underestimated the patriotism of these men. After all, it was somewhat the custom to sneer at the Auxiliary Forces and the War Office. He would ask the Committee to remember that whatever these men were worth it was all they had. When this country was engaged fighting against 40,000 farmers we soon came to the end of the men who had had any training at all. There were at least two hon. Members of this House who had had to command, in a war against 40,000 farmers, brave and gallant Englishmen who had had no military training whatever, and who did not know one end of the rifle from the other. If, instead of proposing to reduce the Volunteers, the right hon. Gentleman had aimed at getting as many men as possible to do something in the way of military training this country would in the future be saved from such a bitter humiliation as occurred in the South African War, which culminated in the capture of a great and gallant British general owing to the fact that a number of the men under him had not learned the elements of military warfare. Now they had the Secretary of State for War coming down to this House and declaring that these men were redundant and proposing to reduce them. This question was going to be fought out, and whatever else they did one thing was certain, that the more men they possessed who had the patriotism and the skill to give some kind of military training to their country the better it would be. Some of them who occasionally cast their eye to what was going on in the rest of the world, and who perceived that in one battle the combatants had lost a total equal to the whole British Army with its Reserves, were occasionally led to think that the more they appealed to the patriotism of the people to fit themselves for war the better it would be. This question would be raised again and again until this foolish policy of sapping the patriotism of the people had been finally condemned.

He moved a reduction of this Vote because they had decided that the great questions of Army policy should be raised on Vote 1, and that they should endeavour to understand on Vote A exactly what they were to fight about. Therefore, he proposed to reduce the Army by 10,000, and strange to say the Secretary of State for War proposed the same thing. Apparently this was the beginning of unanimity. Therefore he would direct his remarks to finding out what the Government intended to do, so that they would know what to condemn and what to approve of. The first question, if they proposed to reduce the Army, was, why was it necessary to reduce it, and what did the Government propose to do in order to make up for the loss of military power which that reduction would produce? All sides were agreed that they must reduce the Army, but the cost per man would continue to increase. The more people thought scientifically the more they would see that the more expensive part of the Army must be increased, and the less expensive parts must be reduced. They must have more officers, more cavalry, and more artillery. Consequently, if they were to fulfil the mandate of this House to reduce the total cost, they must greatly reduce the numbers, anticipating increases in the more expensive forces of the Army. The Army was not the actual power of the nation, because they all realised that it was no use sending the British Army in the field against a nation that could mobilise 3,000,000 men. The second reason why they must reduce the Army was because of the effect of increasing the term of service for the recruits. The Leader of the Opposition last year warned the Secretary of State for War that in adopting the nine-years system he was going perilously near that moment when they must provide a life career for the soldiers. That was exactly what the Secretary of State was doing, because by taking a man for nine years they robbed him of all chances of taking civil employment at the end of his service. That day he had received two letters from soldiers who had not learned any trade, asking him to find them employment. What happened in such cases? The hon. Member for Chippenham knew from his connection with civic authorities and with the Army what happened, and he had a special right to speak upon this matter. If it were true that by enlisting men for nine years they condemned them to unemployment in the future, they had a right to ask the Secretary of State for War what he proposed to do.

The right hon. Gentleman said nothing that he had done was going to prevent his successors from either reversing the policy he proposed or continuing it. He did not tell them what he proposed to do in the future, and he did not say at what moment he proposed that the two-years system of enlistment for home service should begin. Was it fair, after having for one year taken advantage of the general wish of the House to give him a chance to undertake a difficult problem, and after saying that he would not produce Estimates on the old basis, to come down and say that while he still intended to prosecute his scheme, for some reason they did not know of the scheme could not be proceeded with? When were they going to begin establishing the home-service Army? Would the Secretary of State for War pledge himself not to proceed with it until the House had had an opportunity of considering it? He wished to know whose scheme it was which the right hon. Gentleman now propounded. Was it his own scheme? If it was, all he had to say was that it was very different to last year's scheme. If it was not his scheme, who had approved of it? Was it the scheme of the Army Council or the Committee of Defence? Were his proposals approved of by his responsible advisers, and did the Auxiliary Forces Department at the War Office desire to reduce the Volunteers? Did they wish to abolish the Militia? To all these things they wanted a reply, so that when they came to discuss Vote 1 they would not be talking in the dark. They had been talking in the dark for a year and a quarter, and he was sure the right hon. Gentleman would be ready to admit that the House had continued to give him their indulgence in a policy of concealment due to the fact that his advisers and himself could not agree. Of course there must come an end to this state of things, and he suggested that it should come before they discussed Vote 1. Did the right hon. Gentleman propose to proceed with the abolition of the Militia? In the second place, did he propose to proceed with the enlistment of a home-service Army, a change to which many of them objected very strongly. Thirdly, did he propose to reduce the Volunteers irrespective of whether they were efficient or not, or was he of the opinion that any man who wished to serve his country should have an opportunity found for him of so doing? Did the right hon. Gentleman adopt the extraordinary theory that after all the duty of the people of this country was to look on and pay up, and that nothing more was required than a few men placed at strategic points, numbering about 40,000 or 50,000, to defend certain isolated places. Those were three very definite questions. He did not think they were asking for anything very outrageous in requesting that replies should be given to those points, because the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman were more far-reaching than any which had been made since the time of Mr. Cardwell. When Mr. Cardwell proposed his changes in the Army it was admitted that they could not be carried through without full discussion, and ten days were devoted to Army matters in that year before the 31st of March. The fullest disclosures were made of the intentions of Mr. Cardwell and the Government, and no parallel could be found for the policy of concealment pursued by the War Office until the very eve of a decision being taken by the Committee. He asked for this information in order to enable them to form a right conclusion. Although they wanted the British Army to maintain great traditions they realised at the same time that the expenditure must be limited. They realised also that the Army must be composed of the best men they could obtain. At the same time they would not, if they could help it, entertain any proposal to dispense with the services of any Englishman who would submit to any kind of military instruction whatever. They knew that after all the future was dim and dark. They could not lay down precisely with any certainty what would happen when the dark day of war came upon them, but they knew that after all the safety of this country depended not only upon ships but in the first, in the second, and in the last degree upon the patriotism of the people and upon their spirit of self-sacrifice.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 211,300, all ranks, be maintained for the said Service."—(*Major Seely.*)

*Mr. CLAUDE LOWTHER (Cumberland, Eskdale) said that in listening to the speeches which had been made in this debate, it seemed to him that the keynote of the speakers was "retrenchment," but he had not heard from any hon. Member a practical exposition of the manner in which the admirable reforms suggested could be effected. If the Secretary of State for War, with his characteristic affability, were to be guided by the criticisms of every hon. Member of this House, he would find his task to be no light one. He would have to reduce the Army in order to please some, and he would have to increase the Army in order to satisfy others, and besides, he would have to add very largely to the number of the Volunteer force while at the same time reducing the expenditure upon it. The right hon. Gentleman would have to abolish the Army Council and entrust its functions to the hon. Member for Central Bradford by the express desire of the hon. Member for Oldham.

It was easy to use retrenchment as a battering-ram against any Government, but how were they going to retrench to-day? A few years ago the "blue water" theory still held good, but as things were to-day it was impossible to reduce our Army by a single man without its being a danger and menace to the Empire. In the last year or two conditions had radically changed. We had lost our insular position, and our extended Indian frontier had become as vulnerable as the frontier of any European Power. Recent events proved beyond doubt that if our Indian frontier were menaced, our Indian Army of 230,000 would be found totally inadequate for the calls that would be made on it. Although one naturally hesitated to refer to hostile possibilities in connection with a friendly Power, yet facts could not be blinked. Russia had just completed the Trans-Caspian Railway at enormous expense. It abutted on the Afghan frontier, a country we were pledged to defend. She had done more. During the last twelve months, although plunged in external and internal troubles, she had completed a second great trunk line from Orenburg to Tashkend. Troops and stores had been poured into the Trans-Caspian Provinces, which we could hardly believe were solely for the comfort and protection of "trippers" to the Far East. These railways were, beyond doubt, purely strategical. Wise nations, like wise individuals, did not throw away money to no purpose; and if Russia was preparing for a probable rupture with a friendly country, then so must we. Until recently it would have been impossible for Russia to have sent against us and supported a fully equipped army of more than 150,000 men, but now with two lines of railway completed she would, in the event of hostilities, be able to plant on our frontier an army of considerably over 500,000. This had been proved beyond doubt by the enormous number of troops she had poured into Manchuria, over one line of railway 5,000 miles long. Under Lord Kitchener's scheme our frontier Army would consist of 160,000 men, of whom one third would be British. It was quite clear, therefore, that in order to successfully resist an attack of three times the number, we must be ready, immediately on the outbreak of war, to send at least 150,000 more troops from this country. The Japanese War had also shown us that we should require a further 200,000 men every year for depletion from calamities and disease. And it was at this moment that without offering any alternative proposal the amateur military critics would cut down our Army to promote its efficiency.

How, then, we were to obtain an Army efficient for the defence of our Indian frontier, which, inadequately guarded, was a direct incentive to any nation envious of our rich Indian possessions? Apart from conscription, a system which would never be tolerated in this country, because it was wholly alien to the British character, there was only one solution which he ventured with great deference to submit to the House. In another year our treaty with Japan would lapse. He urged not only that we should renew it, but that we should make it of such a character that in the event of either country's Asiatic possessions being attacked they should mutually help each other—Great Britain with her Fleet—Japan with her army. It was difficult to gauge the far-reaching advantages of such an alliance, not only to Japan and Great Britain, but to the whole peace-loving world. Great Britain would be relieved of the upkeep of an Army, which if brought to the huge standard of efficiency demanded by the new conditions would become an intolerable burden to the British taxpayer. The idea of all Army reformers might then be realised—a small but efficient fighting force combined with a cheap and serviceable Home Army. And if this alliance had wide-reaching advantages for England, there was no limit to its possibilities for Japan. Like ourselves she was an island Power; like ourselves at the end of this war she would possess a continental frontier, and, therefore, her series of victories, splendid and unbroken as they were would avail her nothing in the future if she should lose command of the sea. Even if peace were happily concluded, Japan could not ignore the fact that Russia's enormous resources enabled her to build three ships where she could build one, and to build or buy three times as quickly. We had it on the authority of a Russian officer of the highest distinction, Admiral Dubassoff, who had publicly stated that if Russia patched up peace it would only be in order to build a new fleet and renew the struggle with increased vigour. Not only could our Fleet guarantee her immunity from this menace, but behind its shadow she would reap the full fruits of her sacrifices and enjoy that recuperation which alone could save her from financial exhaustion. To Russia such an alliance would be a boon in disguise as it would secure the future peaceful development of a peace-loving people.

*The CHAIRMAN; This seems hardly relevant to the Army Estimates.

*Mr. CLAUDE LOWTHER said he would conclude what he had to say by respectfully drawing the attention of the Government to the renewal on a stronger basis of our alliance with Japan, because he saw in it the only possible means by which we could secure retrenchment and efficiency with safety to the Empire.

Mr. GUEST (Plymouth) said it was a remarkable thing to find in an Army debate an alliance recommended on the grounds stated by the hon. Member for the Eskdale Division. He supposed the hon. Member was so delighted with the success of Chinese labour in South Africa that the proposal was to relegate the work of the Army to another yellow race. In a speech of singular earnestness, tinged with such a deep sense of melancholy as to make it somewhat more a lament than a statement of policy, the Secretary of State for War appealed for the non-Party treatment of the Army question, and generously offered to his successor the fruits of his own unremitting toil. He welcomed the spirit in which that appeal was put forth, but he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not think hon. Members on his side of the House factious if they found themselves not entirely able to go with him on certain

Army matters. The Secretary of State developed in its extreme form what was known as the doctrine of the blue-water school. He declared that this country enjoyed practical immunity from invasion, that conclusion having been reached as the result of scientific inquiries by the Council of Defence and the Army Council, confirmed by the observations which took place at Clacton-on-Sea last autumn. If we enjoyed that practical immunity how was it that the Secretary of State for War was able to come forward with the proposals he had made? The Secretary of State was either not logical or had not the courage of his opinions to face the logical deductions to which they led him. If we enjoyed this immunity, so far from retaining any portion of the Volunteer force, they should be completely abolished and the Militia also—all those who were tied to the soil—and the Regular Army, which was the only force the right hon. Gentleman could conceive to be possible in future, should be fostered, if not augmented. What had the right hon. Gentleman done? He had not abolished the Volunteers. He had maimed them, and he had threatened the Militia, and so far from having nurtured the Regular Forces of the Crown he contemplated reducing them by 17,000 in the course of the year. He urged the right hon. Gentleman to continue the course on which he had entered.

In order to state to the House his own view as to the necessity of reducing the Regular Army it was necessary to indulge in a short comparison between the state of the Army to-day and in 1898, which was the last normal year before the war. In 1898 an Army of 180,000 was maintained for £20,000,000, whereas the Estimates this year provided for 204,000—after eliminating the 17,000 who were to disappear—and they were to be maintained at a cost of £30,000,000. That was to say, while there was only an addition of 24,000 men the Estimates had risen by £10,000,000. It could not be asserted that the existing Army was in many respects better than the Army of 1898. The Army of 1898 was, at any rate, able to accomplish certain objects. It provided the drafts for our Indian establishment—which he believed to be the first object which it ought to perform, and which the Army of the present Secretary of State for India egregiously failed to do. Then, that Army of 1898 provided and maintained 444,435 men to serve in South Africa. That was a considerable achievement. Again, in 1898 we had a reserve of 78,000 men; while the Auxiliary Forces maintained under that 1898 system actually sent out to South Africa no fewer than nearly 100,000 men. The question that had to be asked was: "Was the present Army able to do half as well again as that Army achieved?" He thought, on the contrary, that it had not attained that state of efficiency reached by the Army of the right hon. Gentleman's predecessors. If so, why was it that it cost £10,000,000 more to maintain an Army to-day which was only slightly larger than that of ten years ago? If hon. Members examined the Estimates they would observe that by far the largest item in the £10,000,000 was £4,000,000 for increase of pay. The pay had risen 66 per cent. and the number of men 30 per cent. The fact was, the limit of the enlistment system had been ignored. The origin of this increase in the Army was due to the days—now happily done away with—of the megalomania of the Secretary of State for India: to the days of the doctrine of home defence by the Regular Army, now entirely abandoned: and also to the days of that bugbear, the equipoise of the linked battalions. Lord Lansdowne was responsible for increasing the Army by 28,000 men; his successor for an increase of 37,000 men—or a total increase of 65,000 in ten years. He entirely agreed with the Secretary for War when the right hon. Gentleman stated the previous night that if a large Army was necessary for the defence of the Empire, the problem should have been squarely faced and the question of compulsory service should have been fairly met.

If the Committee agreed with him that there was a limit to the voluntary system, it was obvious that if more men were wanted another means of obtaining them must be devised; and that the present system was not the way by which it would or could be done. Unfortunately the standard of the Army had been tampered with with the most disastrous results. One of the ways by which the increase in enlistment was to be affected was by the late Secretary for War accepting the Motion of the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight insisting on the production of character by recruits. There was a third device by which it was expected a greater number of recruits would be secured—the institution of a short-service system. He maintained that in introducing the short-service system the present Secretary for India had not got the condition of the Reserve in his eye. It was offered as an inducement to recruits in the hope that a considerable proportion of them would prolong their service. Now, what he had been trying to reach was this: the governing factor of the situation by which the size of the Army would be ultimately determined was not the necessities of the Empire, but the normal supply of recruits expected to be obtained in any given year. In 1894 41,000 recruits were raised in this country: but these figures were very misleading, because in the same year no fewer than 21,000 were lost to the Army from causes other than by passing into the Reserve, by purchase, and by completion of service. That was a loss of 50 per cent. It was interesting to observe from what causes that loss took place. There were 1,699 deaths, 1,330 unserviceables, 4,973 invalided; discharged for misconduct 3,656, and other causes 8,444, or a sum total of 21,000. There was not only a large material loss, but a great economic waste. Both from the point of view of efficiency and a consideration of the facts there had to be eliminated, as far as possible, all those men, who, from one cause or another, could not fill the services on which so much money had been spent. There was another ominous fact. He had seen it stated that in 1902 no less than 21,943 soldiers were committed to prison for one offence or another.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said that that included both sailors and soldiers.

Mr. GUEST said even that was very serious. Then there were the desertions, which averaged 2,000 a year. His contention was that by lowering the standard—

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford) said he never lowered the standard of the Army in his life. He had always set his face against lowering the standard of any class of soldiers.

Mr. GUEST said he quite agreed that the right hon. Gentleman did not intend to lower the standard; and he knew that the right hon. Gentleman in one particular did raise it very materially. But whatever the right hon. Gentleman might have done, whether by increasing the pay, tampering with the standard, or by reducing the term of short service, more than a certain number of recruits would never be got. The present Secretary for War had much circumscribed the possible cases for which an Army might be needed. All he contemplated was a sufficient force to defend our possessions beyond the seas and the possible provision of a small striking force for dealing with Mad Mullahs or the like.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the hon. Gentleman had omitted that one of the most important purposes of the Army at home was to furnish large reinforcements for our Army abroad in case of war.

Mr. GUEST said he would include that. As to the terms of service under which recruits might be enlisted, the Secretary for War had two objects in view. First, the provision of an Army in India and the colonial garrisons; and, second, the creation of a Reserve on which he could rely. There were several ways in which these two objects might be achieved. It was well known that a long-service system was much more suitable for the one, and a short-service system for the other. The late Secretary for War relied on short service, with the inducement to the soldier of an increase of pay of 6d. a day to extend his service. That experiment failed, and the right hon. Gentleman might have foreseen it, because after a man had been only three years in the Army he had not attained an age which precluded him from returning to civil life and learning a trade. But if the soldier continued his service for another seven years, he would find himself at a time of life when he could not devote himself to learning any sort of trade with success and there would be nothing left to him but his small pension. The present Secretary for War proposed a simultaneous long and short-service system, but that was only the same system as that of his predecessor, only under a different name. There was another system in vogue. First, the long-service Army was to be filled up, and then something was to be done for a short-service Army with an inducement to go into the Reserve. Now, he could not believe that that was a satisfactory conclusion. His own opinion was that they should be driven back to the compromise of so many years with the colours and so many years with the Reserve. The corollary of the reduction of the Regular Army was the maintenance of the Auxiliary Forces. In this country war was only possible if it had the support of public feeling, and that feeling would enable the War Office to rely with certainty on the patriotic readiness of the Volunteers and Militia to serve in any part of the world. The official contempt for Auxilaries was much to be deprecated. In European warfare it was as necessary to protect the line of communication as it was to have a fighting line, and that was a thing for which the Volunteers were well fitted. Again there was the defence of India. If Volunteers could be sent to India to occupy the garrisons whilst the Indian Army went to protect the frontier India itself would still be in a very good position so far as defence was concerned. The creation of the Imperial Yeomanry was the one great achievement of the present Secretary of State for India, and something of the same sort ought to be done for the Militia and Volunteers.

*SIR J. FERGUSSON (Manchester, N.E.) reminded hon. Gentlemen opposite when they criticised the Secretary for India's schemes of reform that the right hon. Gentleman had introduced the most important reform of raising the pay of the soldier after two years service. That was a most gratifying change because it permitted us to obtain the number of recruits we required. The right hon. Gentleman, moreover, had been enabled to enforce the condition that only men of good character should be enlisted, and it was pleasing to hear that recruits were being obtained of a higher class and satisfactory character. He attributed to the action of the Secretary for India the restoring of a depleted Reserve after the war. The Guards, for example, had long been enlisted for three years with power to prolong their service, and about half of the men enlisted had agreed to continue in the Army. At the same time a large Reserve had been built up, enabling the regiments to send 10,000 men to South Africa and keep the battalions at home at their full strength. He agreed in the main with what had been said by the last speaker as to the project of the Secretary for War in respect of the Auxiliary Forces. He hoped that they were not committed to the project of the practical abolition of the Militia. The Militia had received very hard treatment in being reduced to its present condition, and every one knew that the force had been made the milch cow for the Regular Army. It should not be forgotten that the Militia in former times had supplied the Army with men in time of need. This was the case in the Napoleonic Wars and in South Africa, for it was known that many men fought at Waterloo in their Militia uniforms. He contended, therefore, that it was not necessary on grounds either of economy or of efficiency to abolish the Militia as the Secretary of State had practically proposed to do.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER (Wiltshire, Chippenham) supported the Amendment for the reduction, because he was convinced that if they were to reduce the expenditure on the Army it could only be done by a substantial reduction in the number of men. The attack which had been made on the Auxiliary Forces, if carried to its logical conclusion, must become detrimental to the whole military system. He opposed any reduction of the Volunteer force on Imperial grounds. The suggestion that a home-service Army should be established had not taken practical shape as yet, and it therefore became necessary to maintain the only substitute which could provide an adequate Reserve through the maintenance of the Auxiliary Forces. He supported the reduction of men on the Regular establishment, believing it would in no way jeopardise the drafts for India. The extension of the period of service would give the War Office the same facilities in that respect as they had under the old seven-years system. In connection with three years service considerable difficulty arose in the matter of drafts for India, and the system was shown to be most futile and expensive, as men's term of service expired in many instances so soon after their arrival in India. The costliness of the system would be realised when it was remembered that the cost to India and back was about £18, with £4 or £5 for additional equipment, and that within the last six months no less than 5,000 men had been sent out under these conditions. During the war the short service was necessary in order to get the men, but the time had now come when the longer service must be reverted to. But the fact had to be faced that with a nine years service men were placed in a very precarious position at the expiration of their term.

The real Army problem was the question of the after-employment of men who joined the colours. In his Memorandum last year the right hon. Gentleman made sympathetic reference to the question, but there was nothing further in that direction this year. Was it not time the House took into its serious consideration the question of the after-employment of soldiers? Men joining the service at the age of eighteen and serving nine years, would be discharged in the prime of manhood, but at a period of life later than that at which they could easily adapt themselves to civil occupations, with the result that they would be thrown upon the casual market. He believed the question of unemployment, which he hoped the House would face in the near future, was closely connected with our military system. If the Local Government Board would procure from the local authorities a return showing the number of men out of employment, marking those who at some period had been with the colours, it would probably be found that a very large proportion had served in the Army, and then through no fault of their own had found their way into that class who were the last to be employed in good times, and the first to be discharged in bad times of trade. The three years system was introduced on the assumption that 70 per cent of the men would re-engage, but only 12 per cent. did so. If an analysis were made of the unemployed during last winter it would probably be found that a large proportion of the 88 per cent. who did not re-engage went to swell the ranks of the unemployed.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER pointed out that that could not be the case, as the three years men had not come to the end of their term of service.

*SIR J. DICKSON-POYNDER thought that, at any rate, many of the men would find it very difficult to obtain employment, although, of course, it would not be so difficult after three years as after nine years service. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would take the matter up, and endeavour to frame some constructive scheme by which the public services and organisations throughout the country might provide employment for these men. No doubt all sorts of objections would be raised and the proposal said to be impossible, but the country was face to face with a great problem; and if the present voluntary system was to be maintained a scheme would have to be devised by which men who joined the colours, provided their conduct during service was good, should be assured of employment when their term with the colours expired. Something might be done through the Post Office, a Department which had 37,000 employees in London alone, and that number represented only 32 per cent. of the total in the country. He would not confine the plan to any one Department, it should be so arranged with different Departments that the men might be evenly distributed about the country. Some assistance might come from the police, though he knew the idea was very unpopular. At present we were moving in a vicious circle. The fact that they were not ensured employment on the expiration of their term of service debarred many men of good character and position from entering the Army. A change in that respect would automatically raise the standard of recruits, and the result would be not only a great gain to the

Army, but a substantial mitigation of one of the grievous problems of the day. The local authorities throughout the country might be approached in the matter. He still held the view which he expressed four years ago, that with our voluntary system the more closely the local governing authorities could be brought into harmony with the military system the better it must be for the country. At the outside, only from 30,000 to 35,000 men were discharged per annum in the ordinary course, and that number distributed throughout the country into different organisations need not be a burden to any particular one. To secure a strong and efficient Army every encouragement must be given to men to enter the Army, and the only real encouragement that could be given was an undertaking that if they conducted themselves as respectable citizens during their term of service they should be sure of employment on their return to civil life.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I must say I have no reason to complain of the discussion to-day not being in accordance with the request I ventured to make yesterday. It has certainly lacked nothing in breadth or in depth, and if I may say so, it has been a most valuable contribution to the discussion of Army questions. With much that has been said I am in cordial agreement, but with a great deal I am afraid I still remain at variance. I should like if I can to do justice to those who have differed from me, as well as to those who have agreed with me. I have noticed with great satisfaction that there has been a tendency in the direction which I desire we all should travel—a tendency to recognise the truth that after all we are not keeping up, as we ought not to keep up, a large Army primarily for the defence of these islands.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: No, no.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The hon. Members to whom that tendency has not extended have been left behind in the advance that has been made; but I have noticed a very remarkable tendency in that direction.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: To whose speech does my right hon. friend refer?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I think almost every speech that has been made. But I will endeavour to make my point good. I do not mean to say that all who have expressed that view are in agreement with me, but I do note that tendency in all their speeches. I am going, not to traverse, but to criticise some of the statements which have been made by the various speakers. If hon. Members will allow me I will explain to them my view of what is the real guiding principle in this matter.

We are told we ought to have a great reduction in the Regular Army. The hon. Member who has just sat down was very emphatic on that point, and I wish to know how he justifies that proposition, whether it is based upon a true view of this question, or whether it is really an idea thrown off because he knew it would be acceptable to all of us, and that that is the shortest way of getting a reduction of cost. It is admitted on all sides that we have to maintain an Army which is suitable for our needs in time of peace, and capable of expansion in time of war. Has he considered whether, if he reduced our Regular Army, it would be able to satisfy those considerations? I am working under strictly limited conditions. The Army Council is working with the object of producing an Army which shall supply in time of peace a garrison for India and the approved garrisons for the Colonies, while having a certain proportion of that Army at home, so as to make a proper circulation between all parts of the Army, and which shall be capable of furnishing the drafts and units necessary for the reinforcements which the Indian Government demand in time of war. The hon. Member suggested that we might with advantage go back to the system of seven and five years enlistment. I traverse that statement for this reason. If you do go back to that system you will get no reduction in cost, and you will most certainly get no Reserve which will enable you to satisfy the demands of the Indian Government in time of war. You will not and you cannot get the Reserve necessary for the requirements of the Army in India if you put the whole Army upon that basis. You will get nothing near the infantry Reserve required for that purpose, nor would you get the number of units. You will not get units sufficient to supply the demands of the Indian Government in case of war; if you begin to reduce and cut off units you will be not, as I explained before, cutting off the officers, but you will be making it impossible to add to the number of your effective Army when the stress of war comes. It can easily be calculated what Reserve was produced under the previous system. It numbered 54,000 men in the infantry. If you begin to reduce the number of infantry units you *pro tanto* reduce that Reserve, and that Reserve is entirely inadequate for the purpose we are compelled to regard as binding upon us. The hon. Member said we had introduced the nine years system of service, and that he considers too long. Well, standing as an isolated period, I should agree with him; I think if it were not joined with the short service it would be too long. I would remind him that the period is practically the same as that upon which thousands have been serving before, and it is only one year in excess of the official term which men have been serving for years past. We have fought this battle over and over again, thinking we ought to do all in our power to provide for men who have been in the Army for nine years. I did make a proposition that we should be able to guarantee to every soldier of good character who had served nine years a congenial occupation in the ranks of the Army in connection with the short-service battalions which would provide him with that certainty of employment to which I think he is entitled. I think the hon. Member was mistaken in supposing that little is done for the employment of these men on their discharge. If he would look at the Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting he would see that the proportion of men of good character who cannot obtain employment is comparatively small.

*Sir J. DICKSON-POYNDER: I am told it is about 30 per cent.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Oh, no; it is much less, and that fact has been the secret of success in the Navy, and it will be the secret of success in the Army. The hon. Member has said he considers two periods of service at the same time impossible. A great many things have been said about the impossibility of it. I was told by many great authorities that we should have no chance of obtaining our military recruits for the nine years service, but since October we have obtained 11,000 men on that basis; and to that extent we have passed the calculation of many who were entitled to express an opinion. I believe you must come to this double system of recruiting, and if you do come to it you can successfully carry it out if you comply with the ordinary conditions of common sense.

Mr. CHURCHILL (Oldham): Is that the right hon. Gentleman's policy at the present moment?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes. If you continue the long-service recruiting indefinitely you must sacrifice your Reserve. If you do not come to some kind of short-service recruiting you cannot make that Reserve. In order to carry on the two systems side by side you must have great differentiation in the inducements offered to the man who has served the long time and the man who has served the short time. The hon. Member has not remembered that the inducement to the soldier hitherto of enlisting for a long period of service has not been great, and that inducement has never been given to him until he has served two years in the Army. I pass from that view of the question as to how we ought to deal with the soldier in the Army, to what has been the main part of the debate this afternoon; that is, the question whether we can or cannot regard the Auxiliary Forces in their present state as a substitute, or an available substitute, for the Regular Army.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Before the right hon. Gentleman deals with that question would he kindly answer the Question put by my hon. and gallant friend as to whether he is proceeding with the short-service Army proposals?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have explained that many times, and I say that it is impossible to proceed with the short-service men until the nucleus of long-service men required for the Army has been raised.

MAJOR SEELY: When will that be?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That, of course, will depend entirely upon the rate at which recruiting proceeds.

MR. CHURCHILL: But when will it be?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: We are recruiting at the rate of about 400 per month, and it will be about seven or eight months before we shall have obtained enough long-service men.

MAJOR SEELY: And will you then begin with the short-service Army?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes.

MR. CHURCHILL rose again.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER would not give way.

MR. CHURCHILL said the right hon. Gentleman would do better in his own interest if he allowed his interruption.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I do not wish to stand in the hon. Member's way.

MR. CHURCHILL: I wish to get this information definitely in view of the very important debate on Monday next. Are we to understand that the right hon. Gentleman's policy now is that, as soon as he has got his requisite number of long-service men, that is in eight or nine months time, he intends to proceed with the scheme of last year which he has laid before the House for establishing a dual Army system and short service for soldiers at home?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, that is so. I now come to the question as to how far we can regard the Auxiliary Forces as a substitute for the Regular Army. The hon. Member for the Isle of Wight expressed my own sentiments upon this point. This is a question we must examine not from the point of view of patriotic enthusiasm, but from the point of view of its military value. The hon. Member for the Eskdale Division of Cumberland said that we might rely upon public enthusiasm in time of war. My view is that public enthusiasm in time of war is not enough. There was an enormous amount of public enthusiasm in the year 1870 in Paris, but that war ended disastrously, and something more than that was required. What I want to inquire into is how much we can rely upon it to make itself of value for the purposes of war.

Mr. Arnold-Forster.

MAJOR SEELY: The right hon. Gentleman misapprehends the point I raised as he misapprehended it once before. We had enthusiasm at the time of the Boer War, but then it must be remembered that everybody does not belong to the ranks of the Volunteers. The point was could they rely upon enthusiasm without training. If they could not, then they ought to be able to obtain men who had had some training to fulfil that patriotic enthusiasm.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: If it be true that we can rely upon putting into the field against a foreign army troops which have had only the training of the Volunteers, all I can say is that every other country in the world is making a mistake except ourselves.

MAJOR SEELY: But that is better than nothing.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I agree that it is better than nothing, but the question is, is that good enough. If we are right then every other country in the world is wrong. I have abundance of opinion from every military authority in this country, and it is unanimous upon this question, and they declare that you cannot safely enter into combat with a civilised army with men who have had so small a training as that which we give to our Volunteers. But supposing we are right and everybody else is wrong, then surely we are wasting both our time and money on the Regular Army. I cannot accept that, and I cannot bring myself to believe that the Germans, the French, the Japanese and every other country is wrong. It is argued that this force is of great value to have, however imperfectly trained, because it is a great supplement to the Army in time of war. I admit that up to the point to which that argument will carry me. My view is that it is our duty to provide such an organisation for the Regular Army as will allow a very large reserve of trained men who will have had equivalent training to the troops which form foreign armies. That is why I attach no importance to the particular period, and why I suggested two years as the minimum period of training to be allowed. That is the minimum training adopted by every country except Switzerland, which does not, I suppose, contemplate the undertaking of a foreign expedition.

*MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER: Is the right hon. Gentleman referring to my speech?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I think the hon. Member used the phrase "public enthusiasm."

*MR. CLAUDE LOWTHER: No, I never used that phrase.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Then I withdraw the "public enthusiasm." The Volunteers, it is argued, give us what we are likely to want in time of war. The hon. Member has called me to task for what I have said with regard to the value of the Volunteer force in a great emergency. I think he has endeavoured to put into my mouth words which I did not use. I have said that you must not expect more from the Volunteers than the conditions of the service allow them to give. What do the conditions allow them to give? We know what they gave in the case of the South African War. They gave a great deal, especially on the first occasion when the demand was made. But what do I find in the Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting for the year 1901? The Report says—

> "It was found that it was not possible to obtain the full number of companies, nor, indeed, to obtain companies at the same strength as in the preceding year. The Army Order which appeared on 25th January was consequently modified, and companies allowed to proceed as such at a minimum strength of ninety all ranks. In cases where the requisite ninety were not forthcoming, Volunteers were allowed to proceed as drafts, to relieve an equivalent number of men of the service company in South Africa, provided a minimum number of twenty-one came forward."

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: May I ask my right hon. friend if at that time 5s. a day was being paid to men without any training whatever?

MAJOR SEELY: Before the right hon. Gentleman replies——

*THE CHAIRMAN: The right hon. Gentleman must be allowed to reply.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: A great many men did go out who had no previous training, but I am aware that a great many of these men became as efficient as some of the Volunteers who went out.

MAJOR SEELY again rose, and——

*THE CHAIRMAN, interposing, said the hon. and gallant Member is not entitled to keep up constant interruptions. He was listened to with perfect silence himself.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have read the Report of the Inspector-General of Recruiting. Let me read some other facts which I think are relevant to the question how far we can rely on this force in time of emergency. The number who volunteered for service in 1900 was 20,929. Of those 3,528 were rejected on medical grounds. Further, there were rejected as not complying with the regulations as to efficiency 3,333. That is to say, 33 per cent. of the 20,929 who presented themselves as willing to serve the country were rejected. I do not blame these men for the fact that they were not medically qualified, or that from the military point of view they were not efficient when they came forward. But we have the fact that 33 per cent. were not accepted by the military authorities on grounds which perfectly justified them in not accepting their services. I am not adducing these facts as a matter of censure at all. I am charged with the duty of seeing whether we have or have not an available military force in time of war, and I have to test the question by the only evidence available. In his examination Colonel Satterthwaite was asked—

> "Do you consider the medical inspection of the recruits strict enough?—There are many sides to that when you ask whether it is strict enough. One is that in the Volunteers their existence depends on the capitation grant, and if the medical inspection was too uniformly carried out many of these corps would cease to exist."

Captain Jenner, Adjutant 3rd Lanark Rifle Corps, in his evidence said—

> "I think if you look at the record of the men that were examined for the service companies that went out to South Africa—and I know some cases that came under my notice—you will find some suitable food for reflection there. You mean in the rejections?—Yes, they were simply terrific the cases that came under my notice in several corps."

Colonel Hawarth, 3rd V.B. Lancashire Fusiliers, was asked—

> "How many of your men would have passed the doctor?—I should think 35 per cent. would have been rejected."

I do think these are relevant considerations. It is unreasonable to expect the Volunteers as now constituted to be available for foreign service, and especially service in India. We know the class who come into the Volunteers. We know that they are proud of the occupations in which they are employed, and no one would really expect a large proportion of the Volunteer force to sacrifice their occupations in order to undertake the work of a campaign in India. When we eliminate these two sections of the Volunteer force—those unfit medically or on the ground of inefficiency, and those disqualified on the ground of being occupied in such a way that they cannot leave the country and cannot hold themselves available for foreign-service—we shall have to reduce the force considerably. If these facts are as I have stated is there anything unreasonable in the proposals I have made to the Committee? I have proposed that we should take steps, so far as we can, to eliminate from the Volunteers the inefficient. We are asked to make large reductions of expenditure. I have been led to believe that you cannot safely make large reductions in the Regular Army except in the way I myself have proposed. I have always entertained the belief that you can make considerable reductions in the Militia force, and yet, at the same time, make it more efficient and self-respecting, and much more useful to the nation. But, be that as it may, I am not prepared to accept the proposition that you are to reduce the Regular Army and the Militia and to take no steps at all, in view of the facts I have just recited and many others I might recite, to reduce the cost of the Volunteer force.

What does that reduction mean? It means the reduction of the inefficient part of the Volunteer force. I am quite sure that reductions such as I have proposed can be made without outstepping for a moment what would be included in the description I have given.

My hon. friend the Member for Sheffield asked where I found any support for my allegation that the tendency of the Committee was in the direction of accepting the view that the Volunteers, like every other branch of our Army, ought to be made available, if possible, for foreign service. I find it in the fact that many of the arguments addressed to the Committee, and notably the arguments of the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight, were based on the assumption that when a time of crisis came we can and must rely on the Volunteers. I say that that is a great step in advance, and I said yesterday and I repeat to-day that it is only logical if that be so that I should ask hon. Members to meet me half way, and to allow the War Department to so spend its money and so organise its forces that it may really fulfil that which the hon. Member desires that it should accomplish. Does the hon. Member think that we are going the best way about it by continuing the present organisation of the Volunteer force? The hon. Member spoke of the Volunteer force forming a garrison for India and a protection for our lines of communication. I have two remarks to make in that connection. I have never been a believer in playing what you may call your second eleven. It may be that you have to defend communications which are never attacked; that has happened; and so long as they are never attacked it does not matter who defends them. But if those communications are attacked you must have troops who are capable of defending them, and I am not going to subscribe to the theory that it is consistent with the safety and dignity of this country to depend upon troops not being engaged when they are placed in a responsible position. If you are going to send the Volunteers—and honestly I do not think you are—to India you must entirely reconstitute that force; you must change its constitution from top to bottom, a thing which I would never think of suggesting to this Committee. How many of the Volunteers went out as an organised force in the late war? Not a single unit.

MAJOR SEELY: They wanted to go, but were not allowed.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: That is precisely my point. The organisation of the Volunteers as legally constituted absolutely prohibits their being made use of in the one way in which military forces can be most effectively employed. The Volunteers have been made use of in foreign wars as individuals and not as a military force, and if they are to be employed as a military force it follows as a necessary consequence that they should be organised in such a way that they could go to the seat of war with their own organisation and their own officers.

It has been said that I have made a proposal to abolish the Militia. That, I may perhaps be permitted to say, is an absolute misconception. I had hoped to utilise them, and I still think that it would be much better if we could, in a way which would make them independent of the Regular Army and make them really the basis of the short-service Army of this country. That has been my desire and that is my desire. That was my proposition and it remains my proposition, but it is not the proposition that I have been allowed to make to the House. Hon. Members know perfectly well what I mean. I have stated it over and over again. I find the feeling in this House is unconquerably opposed to any alteration of the organisation of the Militia; but I do believe that the hon. Member who alluded to this subject is perfectly right in saying that if we were allowed to take the Militia and make them the short-service Army, and make them really fit to face foreign troops in the field we should give the Militia a chance of becoming a real force. That is the "head and front of my offending." I should desire to include in that force a certain number of Line battalions. Now I want once for all to make it clear why I have made that proposal and why I think that that is the proposal which will ultimately be accepted. You have one hundred and fifty-six battalions of the Line, and if you are going to keep the whole of those hundred and fifty-six battalions of the Line on the basis of 800 to 1,000 enlisted for long service with their pay and emoluments as at present, and if you are going to spend any additional money on the Militia as you all desire we should, you will have an enormous increase of the Army Estimates. You will have the upward tendency in the Army Estimates accelerated, and you will have that great increase of our expenditure which the House and the Committee have over and over again said they will not have. There are two alternatives open to you. You may destroy a certain number of battalions of the Line in order to place battalions of Militia in their stead. But when you come to do that, I think you will have a problem which the boldest of us would not care to face. I do not think that public opinion will support the abolition of, say, the 92nd Highlanders in order to put Militia in their place. But that is the absolute logical sequence of forcing these proposals through if you are not to do anything to the Line battalions except to reduce them. What I propose, and what I think is the wisest course, is to level up the Militia battalions to the level of the Line battalions which are not necessary, and which need not be maintained in their full strength in time of peace, and make them the nucleus of the short-service Army. I am not proposing to reduce the Militia, as the hon. Member suggests. The whole Militia Vote is taken this year as it was taken last year; and I am going to ask the Committee, and I hope they will give me their full acquiescence and approval in the course which I have suggested, that we should deal with the Militia in the only way in which we can deal with it in its present condition—that we should get rid of those units and battalions which are inefficient and are clearly incapable of becoming efficient; that we should consolidate such battalions as would gain by consolidation, and if the result is economical from that process we should devote the funds saved to giving the Militia such additional training as the military authorities may think necessary, and which they are capable of receiving.

I have done my best to answer the question of the hon. Member for the Isle of Wight, though I do not suppose I have satisfied him. I have told him that while we owe an immense debt to the Volunteers, we must not exaggerate their importance. I do not think the hon. Member has made it evident to the Committee that we are justified in relying in the event of a great war on the Volunteer force as at present constituted to fulfil our needs. I do not think he has made it clear that we are in such imminent danger of invasion that it is necessary to keep 630,000 men in time of peace to repel an invasion which I honestly believe will never take place. But the hon. Member *ex hypothesi* will say half of that force, the Regular Army and the Reserves and the Reserves of the Navy will be withdrawn and we shall be left with a much smaller force at home. If we had to send the whole of the Regular Army out of the country it is absolutely certain that we should have the entire command of the sea, and if that is so, I believe we are on the safe side in proposing to take the steps I propose. What are those steps? It is that we should recognise, in the first place, that the doctrine of the chance of invasion of this country may be fully expressed by the chance of a raid by 5,000 men. We must be prepared to meet such a raid by a properly organised, equipped, and officered force, and in the Volunteers there is ample material for the formation of such a force. If we limit ourselves to a force of 200,000 Volunteers I am convinced we shall have in any part of the country which may be threatened an ample and sufficient force to repel any such raid, and an enormously improved efficiency on the part of the Volunteers by such a reduction of men and the additional expenditure of money on those remaining in the force.

MR. LABOUCHERE (Northampton) said he did not attach as much value as some hon. Members did to these debates on Army reorganisation. There were in the House a considerable number of hon. Gentlemen who were under the impression that they ought to be field-marshals. These Gentlemen always seized every opportunity of submitting some particular plan of their own for Army reorganisation, and they generally disagreed with each other; while in most cases their plans involved a considerably larger expenditure. It was, therefore, obvious why the Votes for the Army had increased so much in the last few years. He understood that the debate that had gone on on the previous and was going on that day for such a time was merely a sort of preliminary canter, and that they were to have the whole of next week in which to say what the Army ought to be. He really felt inclined to seize the opportunity of taking a holiday; for he did not pretend to be a sort of professor able to lecture on military administration. He left all the details to the technical men in the profession; but what he had observed was that in all those debates in which money was thrown away and squandered in the most reckless fashion the talk was very much confined to the would-be military section of the House. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War himself was one of those field-marshals; but, after all, they could not have a dozen Ministers for War if there was to be unity in the discussion of those matters. He came there simply as a representative of that burdened creature, the British taxpayer, and to look upon these matters from his point of view. Some years ago they had the great Army Corps scheme, which had disappeared, and all they knew was that the Army cost a great deal more at the present moment. And unless hon. Members specifically said that they would not allow the military men to expend more than the present money, the expenditure would go up and up. He believed in a practical Amendment to reduce the amount of the Vote by so much. His hon. friend the

Member for the Isle of Wight had anticipated him in that course by moving a reduction of 10,000 men; but he understood that the money was to be spent on some other plan of the hon. Member's own. He would vote for the Amendment, because it would be so much less; but he wished it to be understood that he voted for it entirely without prejudice to his right to vote against the whole amount asked for.

He would give one or two good reasons for that course. Last year the Secretary for War came forward with a wondrous plan, and everything was to be changed for the better. He wanted to know what on earth had become of that plan? He consulted his military friends, and they told him that the plan had entirely disappeared; that the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War had been overruled by his colleagues. He remembered that last year the right hon. Gentleman told the House that they had got an Army that was perfectly worthless and that all they had got to hope for was that, now he was Minister for War, he would alter it at once. Had the right hon. Gentleman done anything? Not a bit of it. Another observation the right hon. Gentleman made was that, if his plan was adopted, he would not continue to hold the office of Minister for War if he did not reduce the Estimates this year. Where on earth was the reduction? Would anybody tell him where it was? He did not know what the plan of the right hon. Gentleman was; but he gathered from the military critics that, if there was a plan, it was absolutely worthless. They knew that two or three years ago, when the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor produced his plan, the Prime Minister said it was perfection; and now that the House had found that it was not worth the money expended on it, the Prime Minister had thrown over the late Minister for War and taken on the right hon. Gentleman, the present Secretary for War. But that right hon. Gentleman was not allowed to carry out his own views; he was a perfect dummy. The right hon. Gentleman made a bold statement—he was rather bold and egotistical in his habits, and seemed to think that everybody should bow down and worship him—and said that if he was not allowed to carry out his own views, and if he did not reduce the Army Estimates this year compared with those of last year, he would not remain for a moment at the War Office. But there was the right hon. Gentleman this year at that box, with no plan and no reduction of Estimates. He wanted to know whether the right hon. Gentleman was going to do what he promised. It seemed to him that the right hon. Gentleman uttered that threat not so much to the House as to his colleagues; but his colleagues had got the better of him. They had frightened the right hon. Gentleman out of his promises.

Now, it seemed to him that the House ought to express their opinion that the right hon. Gentleman was not fit for his place, and that the Ministers collectively were not fit for their places. How were hon. Members to do that? By the old constitutional way—let them refuse any money or men to the Government until they gave place to better men. Really, it was monstrous that the right hon. Gentleman should come down to the House and tell them that he was not going to do anything last year, but that this year, if he remained Minister for War for so long, he would do something to reduce expenditure on the Army; and that there would be perfection in the end if only they kept him in office. What the House wanted was that the thing should be done at once; and they were not going to keep the Minister for War, or the Prime Minister either, in office any longer. They wanted both to be turned out and replaced by good sound Radicals, who would carry out in office pledges given in opposition. He knew it was said, "What a monstrous thing! Do you want to be without an Army?" No, he did not want the country to be without an Army. He believed the country required a reasonably large and efficient Army; but they had to use the forms of the House to secure that; and the only way in which they could press their protest against the mode in which the business of the Army was carried on, and show their thorough distrust of the Minister for War and his colleagues, was to vote against any proposal they made. If the right hon. Gentleman had come forward and asked for a modest Vote on Account, so as to enable the Government to arrange for a dissolution, he would have supported it, but as he had come forward and asked for a Vote to carry them over the whole year, when the Government had not the support of the country behind them, he should vote against it.

Mr. BECKETT (Yorkshire, N.R., Whitby) said he could not agree with the proposition of the hon. Member for Northampton that the Secretary of State for War was not fit for his place. The right hon. Gentleman had, whether they agreed with him in all the details of this scheme or not, proved emphatically that he was fit for his place. He had tackled a remarkably difficult problem in the right spirit. He had inherited an estate very heavily involved, and had done a good deal to extricate it from that difficult position. He believed he was on the right lines, and if he was allowed time to develop his policy the result would be most satisfactory. The proposition to reduce the Vote by 10,000 men he did not understand, because he did not know whether that was in addition to the reduction already promised by the Secretary of State for War. At all events, sufficient reason had not been given for such reduction. It was true that a proposition was made two years ago to reduce the Army by 27,000 men. For that proposition he, amongst others, voted, but he thought the conditions now were entirely different. Two years ago, when he voted for the reduction of the men, the scheme before the House was radically wrong in principle and hopelessly impracticable. It was therefore their duty to defeat that scheme by every means in their power. That scheme had been abandoned and another scheme had taken its place, from which the country hoped much better things. In order to complete the former scheme 50,000 recruits were asked for by the Secretary of State for War. It was manifestly impossible that 50,000 could be obtained, and therefore, in asking for a large establishment, the Government were merely asking the taxpayers' money. Now a smaller number of recruits was required, viz., 42,000 men, and as these men could be obtained the position was entirely different. Again, men were asked for two years ago for the defence of this country. Men were now asked for service abroad. There was a very great distinction between the two things. Again, two years ago the effective establishment was 311,000 men. Now the effective establishment was 274,000, or a reduction of over 37,000 men in the number of the Regular establishment. He did not therefore think that his hon. friend the Member for the Isle of Wight had made out a conclusive case in favour of a reduction by 10,000 men.

It was not well to reduce the Regular Army at the same time they were endeavouring to reduce the Volunteer force. He admitted that there was a good deal to be said in favour of an effective Volunteer force, but there were certain considerations which had not apparently been borne in mind. The Secretary of State for War said he wanted his Army for service abroad and on the Indian frontier. Supposing we were attacked on the Indian frontier and had to use our forces to repel that attack, should we not have to rely on Volunteer forces of some kind or another in order to supplement our Regular Army? Did the Secretary of State for War believe the Regular Army sufficient to repel an attack on the Indian Frontier without the assistance of Volunteer forces?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Certainly we should not have enough forces unless we had a very large Reserve, and that is why I make the proposal.

Mr. BECKETT thought experts would maintain that the wastage would be so great that in addition to the Reserve we should have largely to rely upon such assistance as we could derive from Volunteer forces in the country. If that were so, it was necessary to have as many men as possible accustomed to handle the rifle, and they would have a better position with 340,000 men to draw from than with only 200,000.

When they came to discuss the scheme with the right hon. Gentleman next week, he hoped some information would be given on certain points. Only a week or two ago the Prime Minister said the Secretary of State for War would produce "his" policy. He did not say "our" policy. The Secretary of State for War had also referred very fervently to the present policy as "my" policy. It was very desirable that they should know whether the Government had pinned their faith to this policy and whether they intended to stand or fall by it. That was a point upon which the House and the country ought to be informed by the Prime Minister himself. The Prime Minister was a member of the Defence Committee and must have the whole subject at his finger ends, and, considering the doubt and uncertainty which prevailed as to the true policy of the Government, the Secretary of State for War's statement should be supplemented by a definite statement from the Prime Minister next week. He asked the Secretary of State for War to tell them also what he had decided to do in regard to the striking force, and what shape that force would take. It would be extremely interesting and satisfactory if the Secretary of State for War would explain the system of recruiting a little more in detail, then they would feel more security as to the future of the Army. He had not offered these remarks in a hostile spirit, and would support the right hon. Gentleman in resisting the reduction proposed.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) commented upon the fact that the Secretary of State for War had not offered any explanation of the reasons why he had not been allowed to carry out his policy, although he declared last year that he would not retain his position unless he were allowed a free hand.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER denied that he had been inconsistent or had falsified any of his pledges. He had not gone back one inch upon the proposals he had made.

MR. MARKHAM said the right hon. Gentleman said he had not been allowed to carry out his policy, and the question was who had prevented him? Was it the Prime Minister, the Defence Committee, or the Secretary of State for India? They were in a very remarkable position. The Secretary of State for War stated that in his opinion it was necessary to have a short-service Army capable of being sent abroad in time of war, and yet he was not allowed to submit his scheme to the House. Was the right hon. Gentleman consulting his own dignity in remaining in the Government under such circumstances?

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER said the hon. Gentleman was entirely mistaken. All he had said was that he was prevented by the prevailing sense of the House of Commons from making his proposal with regard to the Militia. That was not embodied in his scheme, and therefore he had nothing to withdraw.

MR. MARKHAM: Then we understand it is the House of Commons which has prevented the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Yes, certainly.

MR. MARKHAM said it had been pointed out that we had to face a large expenditure on the Indian frontier because Russia had brought a double line of railway to the frontier, and so long as this country continued to twist the tail of Russia so long a heavy expenditure on the Indian Army would be necessary.

MR. SOARES (Devonshire, Barnstaple) was understood to ask before the Committee divided for some information on the subject of remounts and the disposal of cast horses, explaining that he did not desire to occupy time by repeating his observations of the previous day.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT, Cheshire, Macclesfield) was understood to say: The hon. Member on the previous day had suggested that we were in no better position to-day with regard to the question of remounts than at the date of the South African War. That was not so. He was not surprised at the suggestion being made because the work had been done in a quiet and unostentatious manner, and it had not come to the knowledge of hon. Members. It was quite true that there was a smaller number of horses this year, not only in this country but in the world, than there were in 1899, and to that extent the difficulty of securing horses for the Army had not been reduced, but rather increased, but so far as organisation was concerned we were in an infinitely better position to-day than when we went to war in South Africa. The Remount Department had been entirely reorganised and was in a far better position than ever it had been before. They knew where horses were to be found and who they belonged to, the world having been divided into spheres of action. The small prizes given at local shows, to which the hon. Member had referred, would be continued during the coming year, because although they were small it was hoped that they would encourage the breeding of the class of horse likely to be useful for remount purposes. The hon. Member's suggestion as to the sale of cast horses had been considered, but the conclusion had been come to that it was not so economical as the present system. He was afraid they could not give horses to the Brood-Mare Society.

*MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire) referred to the difficulty in reducing the numbers of the Volunteer force. He could not accept the statement of the Secretary of State for War that a large number of Volunteers were medically unfit. Of course so far as possible they should have physically fit men in the Volunteers, but so long as battalions were maintained under the capitation grant it would follow that the larger the numbers in the battalion the larger would be the capitation grant, and if the numbers of the Volunteers were reduced the War Office must be prepared to pay more heavily for those who were fit. [MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Hear, hear!] Referring to the call made upon the Volunteers for active service with the Colours, he pointed out that the call originally made was for two companies from each brigade—one for immediate service and one for service six months hence. It was easy enough to get any number of men to volunteer for active service at once, but not so easy to get men to promise to go out in six or twelve months time, because they did not know what the demands of their business or occupation would be so long beforehand.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 207; Noes, 258. (Division List No. 90.)

AYES.

Abraham Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hon. H. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brown, G. M. (Edinburgh)
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, John
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Devlin, C. R. (Galway)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, C. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt E C(S. Andrw'sBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, A. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis, J.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J. K.(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir A. D.
Helme, Norval Watson

Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C.E.H.(Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife,West
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, D. B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, V. P. (Cavan, W.)
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir W. (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, J. Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Arthur, William (Cornwall)
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Kenna, Reginald
M‘Laren, Sir C. Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley,RtHn. J. (Montrose)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, J. (Lough, South)
Norman, Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, P. (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N)
O'Connor, J. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, J. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. T. (Dumfries)
Richards, T. (W.Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, J. Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, E. (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, H. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan,E.)
Thomas, D A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W.R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas CourtenayT.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. C. (Orkney)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whiteley, George (York,W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, F. W. (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, J.W.(Worcestersh.N.)
Woodhouse,SirJ.T.(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Major Seely and Sir John Dickson-Poynder.

NOES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher,Rt.Hn.SirH.
Bagot, Capt. J. FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, J. G. Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour,Rt.Hn.A.J.(Manch'r)
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW.(Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir F. George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beckett, Ernest William
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith-
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir A. H. (Shropsh.)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, RtHn.J.A.(Glasgow)
Campbell,J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir E. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W.(Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,RtHnJ.A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. T. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Colston, C. E. H. Athole
Cook, Sir F. Lucas
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Cox, Irwin Edward Bainbridge
Craig, C. C. (Antrim, S.)
Cross, H. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale,Rt. Hon. Sir J.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir J. E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward

Dyke, Rt. Hon. Sir W. Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George D. (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn E.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'sB'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir R. Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hon. Edward A.
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S.W.
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir A. Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'rH'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D. (Wednesbury
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. L. (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.)
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside)
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James H. C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks, N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hn. G. T. (Denbigh)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Fred. Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew B. (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, John G. (Yorks. N.R.)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. C. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. F. (Lowestoft)
Lucas, R. J. (Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir L. (Edinburgh W.)
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Fred. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. S. (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, H. P. (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, H. C. (North'mb, Tynes'd
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H. (Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt.-Col. A. C E (Taunton)
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm.
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

And, it being half-past Six of the clock, the Chairman, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 7 of the Army Estimates.

Question put, "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 268, Noes, 161. (Division List No. 91.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch.
Balfour, RtHn GeraldW(Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Beach, RtHn Sir Michael Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Caldwell, James
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Glasgow
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, RtHnJ.A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis(Antrim,S
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton)
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt. Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt Hn SirJ.(Manc'r
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B.(Inverness B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hn. Edward Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S.(Warwick, S.W
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn.J.E.(Elgin & Nairn
Gordon, MajEvans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hon. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hon. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, Walford D.(Wednesbury
Greene, Henry D. (Shrewsbury
Greene, W. Raymond (Cambs.
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (Lond'n'rry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir James (Staffs. N.W
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F.(Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks., N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Joicey, Sir James
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lamont, Norman
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End
Lawson, John Grant(Yorks. NR
Lee, Arthur H.(Hants., Fareh'm
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, FrederickN.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W.(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb. Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, W.J.H(Dumfriesshire
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hon. Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon J Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan, DavidJ (Walthamstow
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Newnes, Sir George
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike(Darlington
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robert Wellesley
Pemberton, John S G.
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick

Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S. Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt, Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel,Sir HarryS.(Limehouse
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely,Maj.J.E.B. (Isle of Wight
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith,Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Smith,HC.(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W.F.D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent, Col Sir CEH (Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt Hn SirWilliam H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby,Lt-Col. A C E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H. (Yorks
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N. E.)
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Benn, John Williams
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hon. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Delany, William
Devlin, Chas. Ramsay (Galway
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellice,Capt.E.C.(S.Andr'sB'ghs
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alexander(LanarkNE
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harwood, George
Hayden, John Patrick
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Jones, David Brynmor(Sw'nsea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P (Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt Hn John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, Kendal(TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir RThreshie (Dumfries
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbt. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David

Shipman, Dr. John G.
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, F W (York, W. R.)
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wilson, Fred. W (Norfolk, Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Wilfrid Lawson and Mr. Labouchere.

Question put, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,630,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Supplies and Clothing, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 259; Noes, 185. (Division List No. 92.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. H. O.
Arrol, Sir William
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r.)
Balfour, Rt. Hn. G. W. (Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hon. Allen Benjamin
Beach, Rt. Hn. Sir M. Hicks
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Boulnois, Edmund
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Brown, Sir Alex. H. (Shropsh.)
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. A (Glasgow
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, R. F. (N. Lancs.)
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A. (Worc.
Chaplin, Rt. Hon. Henry
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cross, Herb. Shepherd (Bolton
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Denny, Colonel
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hon. Sir J. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hon. Sir John E
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Ellice, Capt E. C (S. Andrw's Bghs
Faber, Edmund B. (Hants, W.)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edw.
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J (Manc'r)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Fisher, William Hayes
Fison, Frederick William
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose-
Fitzroy, Hn. Edw. Algernon
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S.W.)
Gardner, Ernest
Garfit, William
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans-(T'r H'ml'ts
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Green, W. D. (Wednesbury)
Greene, H. D. (Shrewsbury)
Greene, W. Raymond-(Cambs.
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Donald
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nd'y)
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Sir J. (Staffords. N.W.)
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hon. James Henry C.
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Hutton, John (Yorks. N.R.)
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jessel, Capt. Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir J. (Monmouth
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)
Lawson, J. Grant (Yorks. N. R.
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. W. (Bristol, S.)

Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Lowther, C. (Cumb., Eskdale)
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver, SirLewis(Edinburgh,W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Diddulph
Maxwell,W.J.H (Dumfriessh.)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Molesworth, Sir Lewis
Montagu, Hon. J. Scott (Hants
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. Robt. Wellesley
Pemberton, John S. G.

Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Purvis, Robert
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Ridley, S, Forde
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. (Stopford-
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, A. H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, H C(North'mb.Tyneside
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)

Spear, John Ward
Spencer, Sir E. (W. Bromwich)
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Strutt, Hon. Charles Hedley
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Vincent, Col. SirC.E.H(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt. Hon. Sir W. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hon. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson,A.Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd,Sir W. H. (Yorks.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wrightson, Sir Thomas
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt Hn. Herb. Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland
Burt, Thomas
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)

Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, J. Hastings
Dunn, Sir William
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Fowler, Rt. Hn. Sir Henry
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Fuller, J. M. F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Griffith, Ellis, J.
Guest, Hn. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J Keir (Merthyr Tydvi
Harwood, George

Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutton, Alfred E. (Morley)
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Jones, David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William(Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P(Cavan,W.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Leigh, Sir Joseph
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry

Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Laren, Sir Chas. Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, Jas. F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie(Dumfries
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Seely, Maj. J. E B (IsleofWight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt Hn C.R.(Northants
Stanhope, Hon. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, DavidAlfred(Merthyr
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wilson, Fred. W. (Norfolk,Mid
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W(Worcestersh. N
Woodhouse, Sir J T(Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr Herbert Samuel and Mr. Bright.

Resolutions to be reported to-morrow; Committee to sit again to-morrow.

*The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY of the TREASURY (Sir A. Acland-Hood, Somersetshire, Wellington) moved to report progress.

Mr. WHITLEY (Halifax) said he understood that no dilatory Motion could be taken until the business of Supply had been dealt with.

*The CHAIRMAN: What the House ordered was that no dilatory Motion could be received "on that Business"—that "Business" constituting the Business to which this Order relates. That has now been disposed of.

Mr. WHITLEY said that the guillotine Resolution referred to the whole Business, which would not end until eleven o'clock to-morrow night.

*The CHAIRMAN: I do not take the view of the hon. Gentleman. "That Business" referred to in the Order is now concluded.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.) said that the Order stated that at half-past Six "the Chairman shall forthwith put every Question necessary to dispose of Vote A and Vote 7 of the Army Estimates in Committee." Similar words were in operation when the Chairman put the Motion to report the Resolution to the House a few days ago. Was it not now necessary to report the Resolution to the House and to put the Motion.

*The CHAIRMAN: I put that Question on a former occasion because the then Resolution was the last which came within the Ways and Means Resolution; and because it concluded the set of Resolutions dealing with 1904. When the last Resolution dealing with 1905 is reached then I will put the Question that I report the Resolution.

Mr. BUCHANAN said that this was the last stage of the Resolutions for the ensuing year.

*The CHAIRMAN: These are only one or two Resolutions. There may be many more.

Mr. BUCHANAN: Not this year.

*The CHAIRMAN: Yes. These Resolutions are the Resolutions for 1905–6.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, W.) said that this was the last Resolution for 1905–6 they would take this year; and, therefore, they thought the Question was necessary.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said that Mr. Speaker had ruled that there could be no dilatory Motion until the whole business had been concluded. He himself was prevented from making two bites at a cherry for that reason.

*THE CHAIRMAN: We have completed the business for this sitting.

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) said that if the Committee referred to the guillotine rule it would be found that the words were that "no Business other than Business of Supply shall be taken." That was not merely Supply within the guillotine Resolution. The Army and Navy Votes were down for consideration; and the Supply to be taken was not limited to that governed by the guillotine Resolution.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER pointed out that when Mr. Speaker gave that ruling the business of the Committee had not been completed.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I am sorry I was not here to hear the ruling of Mr. Speaker. I think the circumstances must have been different. I have given this question my best judgment and I am sorry if I am at variance with the ruling of Mr. Speaker.

And, there being no further Business set down for the Afternoon Sitting, Mr. Speaker left the Chair until this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE WATER AND GAS BILL (BY ORDER).

Read a second time, and committed.

Ordered, That it be an Instruction to the Committee on the Bill to insert provisions for the compulsory supply of water in bulk by meter for agricultural and trade purposes at a reasonable rate and under reasonable conditions, provided that such supply does not entail any further increase of capital than that provided for in the Bill.—(*Sir Edward Strachey.*)

FREE IMPORTS AND SHIPPING TRADE.

MR. OSMOND WILLIAMS (Merionethshire) said he thought it important that the House should have an opportunity of discussing the effects of tariffs on our shipping industry at a time when many people in this country seemed ready to throw to the winds that fiscal system which had during the past fifty years benefited our shipping trade beyond all others, and who seemed to fail to realise that the shipping trade was the one industry which had the most to lose by the imposition of tariffs. In no department of trade had we more cogent examples of the baneful effect of tariffs, privileges, and restrictions of all kinds than in the history of the great shipowning industry. Free trade had given our shipbuilders access to the cheapest and best materials in the world. Tariffs must increase the cost of shipbuilding by adding both to the cost of material and wages. They had done so in America; they must do so here. The result in America had been to inflict great injury to their shipping industry, which at one time promised to rival that of this country. Who would say that tariffs were likely to increase the quantity of cargo to be carried? It had been pretty conclusively proved that the effect of all tariffs was to restrict trade and reduce both production and consumption. Let them remember, too, that tariffs begot tariffs, and to be effectual they must ever increase.

What advantage had tariffs been to American shipowners? In the early sixties the ships of the United States filled the ports of England and France. The Stars and Stripes were seen jostling the Union Jack in every harbour of Europe, and the Baltimore clippers were the pride of the ports. Where were all those vessels now? Swept from the face of the waters as the tariff-reformers opposite had been swept from the House of Commons. Protection and tariffs had destroyed them, and enabled free-trade England to drive them from the harbours of the world. Contrast the decline of the American carrying trade with the wonderful prosperity of our own under free trade. In 1870 we owned 5,690,789 tons; in 1902, 10,054,770 tons, without counting ships owned in the Colonies. He did not know whether, when the right hon. Gentleman for West Birmingham visited Liverpool, he brought an unprejudiced eye to bear upon the spectacle of that great city. If so, he would have seen in its fine streets and great buildings and its wharves and docks and floating palaces a cloud of witnesses to the fruitful effects of free trade. There, on the banks of the Mersey, had grown up one of the finest cities of the Empire, a city which had grown up with the growth of our great shipping industry. During the course of his speeches there the right hon. Gentleman vainly endeavoured to reassure those who foresaw in protection the certain decline and downfall of that great industry. He might as well have tried to prove that the sun and stars would shine in the heavens at the same time. The Liverpool shipping, indeed the nation's shipping industry, had grown with its carrying trade, which in its turn had grown for the sole and simple reason that Great Britain placed no check on the free flow of imports and exports. Ever since the United States drifted into protection her carrying trade had dwindled, and her shipping industry with it. The right hon. Gentleman knew, of course, that the same thing must happen in this country, that our busy and crowded harbours would grow silent and deserted, and that the Union Jack, that now waved on every sea and to every breeze that blew, would grow a rarer and rarer spectacle on the great ocean highways. He knew, of course, that no towns would be more severely hit by protection than Liverpool and Birkenhead. Yet he tried to divert the thoughts of the Liverpool people by the suggestion that we might renew the navigation laws. Renew the navigation laws! What a mad suggestion! Why, we had achieved our present commercial superiority entirely since our fathers adopted the principles and practice of free trade and in particular had our shipping trade prospered enormously since we renounced the monopolies and privileges, and freed ourselves from the shackles of the old navigation laws in 1849; and yet this was the gentleman who said he wished to see this country part of a great Empire, united, strong, and prosperous. Well, he was not alone in that wish. Where they differed was as to the paths that led to prosperity, and as to the forms by which unity might best be preserved and consolidated.

It seemed to him that the first round of this fiscal fight, or fight of free imports in the country, had gone badly against the right hon. Gentleman. He had won nothing; he had brought powerful adherents to the camp of his enemies, and succeeded in shattering the unity of his friends; he had lost them seats and lost them credit; he had not improved the Prime Minister's position or furthered his career. Indeed, his disregard of the Prime Minister's difficulties gave the measure of his political methods in the inroads he had made on comradeship, Party ties, and plain national interests. What could be clearer than that the nation wanted rest after the war? But rest did not suit the right hon. Gentleman's book—with repose came reflection; and the right hon. Gentleman's last chance had been to keep up the unreal, heated atmosphere of the war. However, he was glad to think that great advantages to the Liberal cause had accrued from the right hon. Gentleman's breach, not only with the ablest and most experienced of his old colleagues, but with the flower of young Toryism and Unionism. If he had lost them, the men of the future, they had also no place in the Prime Minister's temporary encampment. The Unionist Party was split asunder on the most profound political differences that could divide a Party. The Prime Minister had told them that the question of free trade and protection would not be the issue at the next election. That was the same voice that told them in the 1900 election that the only question before the country was the war in South Africa. It was hardly wise to play that game again quite so soon.

> "You may fool all the people some of the time, and some of the people all the time, but you can t fool all the people all the time."

The question of free trade or protection was not one that could be left open for a number of years, to be decided in a series of general elections, for all the world like a course of economic lectures. It must be settled at once. There was not a man inside or outside the House of Commons to-day who did not know that, come when it may, it would be not a defeat but a rout of Toryism. Under these circumstances, the position that the free-trade Unionists had taken up seemed to him inexplicable. Place and power, or any hopes of them, were gone irretrievably. Yet each man seemed to hope to save himself, and that hope but enfeebled his attachment to a Leader who was making his return to Parliament daily more impossible. Had they had the courage of their convictions, instead of being induced to vote on a false issue, on a mere quibble, which in their heart of hearts they must have despised, they could at any time during the last two years have ended with one blow the miserable dance of insincerity which was playing havoc with English trade and dividing English society. They could have ended the insolent farce of the Tariff Commission, with its self-appointed inquiry and its absurd Reports. They could then have shown that they really counted for something in politics. The Duke of Devonshire had long since given them a strong and emphatic lead. Surely they must see that if they continued the course of action they had hitherto maintained they would be ground to pieces between two Parties, and in the end, if not consigned to oblivion, at least go on adding to the burden of shame and failure with which they would have to meet the electors. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham, in a letter he wrote to the Member for Dulwich, once more told them that the Empire was "trembling in the balance," and that unless Great Britain taxed her food and her imports for the benefit of the Colonies, an

"inevitable separation of interests will weaken if not entirely destroy the bonds between us."

This was the very ecstasy of separatist despair. There was no foundation for it whatever. The right hon. Member for West Birmingham's want of faith in the Imperial connection had been repudiated nowhere so warmly as in Canada, on

whose behalf the crusade was started. Sir Wilfrid Laurier said—

"There are parties who hope to maintain the British Empire upon lines of restricted trade. If the British Empire is to be maintained, it can only be upon the most absolute freedom, political and commercial."

Other colonising nations had tried to hold their Colonies as their peculiar preserves. England gave hers freedom and self-government. Surely that alone was enough to show what an entirely different front the British Empire would present to the world if it disestablished its free-trade policy and substituted that of the ring fence. Yet in the face of all this the right hon. Gentleman asked for a mandate to destroy that fiscal system which had made this country the market of the world, and to enter upon a policy that would bring us into ruinous contact with other countries and dissolve the ties of Empire. Instead of taxing the food of the people in the interest of Canadian farmers, who did not contribute a penny to our enormous burdens, and who would brook no interference with their own affairs, we should free the land and tax land values for the benefit of our large towns and our great municipalities. Instead of killing our industries by a cut-throat retaliation we should fight foreign competition with the only real weapon of Germany and America—education, free, national, unsectarian. Instead of protecting the trust-mongers, we should assure to labour the restitution of those elementary rights which Parliament gave and the Courts of law had taken away. With such policy at home, and the fulfilment of our moral obligations abroad, the avoidance of anti-foreign feeling and mischievous alliances, they might even build up the Empire on a deeper and firmer foundation. Our Colonies were not to be bought by bribes of gold, but by faith and pride in the Motherland, which was just and free and had the strength that came from those great and glorious attributes.

*COLONEL DENNY (Kilmarnock Burghs) said a fortnight ago, in rising to second such a Resolution as that proposed by the hon. Member for Merioneth he should probably have thought it courteous to his Leader and fair to the House to have made a reference to the fact that he had to take a prominent position in doing something not in accordance with the whip which he had received in the morning. It was not now necessary. Changed circumstances had made it easier, as far as his feelings were concerned; his opening sentences, as originally penned, had, he was afraid, been blown to the winds by the determination taken by the Leader of the House, a determination which he agreed with many of his friends might have been taken long ago, and they in the House were now free to get the reasoned opinion of the Members, opinions which the Leader of the House long ago gave them to understand they were at any rate at liberty to hold. The country learned last week and last night what the opinion of those who cared sufficiently to stay in the House was on the general question of fiscal reform, but, if he recollected aright, the Prime Minister made some rather slighting allusions to the general nature of the discussion, and appeared to think that time was being very much wasted. He agreed with him as little as he agreed with the hon. Member for East Fife, who thought that at any rate in the country enough had been said on the subject. Free-traders must not underrate their opponents, but must keep alert and energetic for a long time to come. At the same time he quite appreciated what the Prime Minister said as to the disadvantage of a general discussion, and so he was more than pleased that it had fallen to his lot to second a Resolution which left the general and entered into the particular. They were now discussing the effect of import duties, not in the abstract, but in the concrete, not as they affected the country as a whole, but as they affected one or two trades in particular. Many of them still believed that it was necessary to educate the House and the country, so that they might realise the effect that any interference with our established fiscal system might have upon trades of gigantic importance to our well-being.

The hon. Member who moved the Motion had thoroughly thrashed out the question as far as he had gone, and he had only a very few thoughts to add. He had carefully examined the position; on the pros and cons of the question he had reasoned with himself and he had come to the conclusion that under no consideration could good accrue to shipping and its kindred industries of shipbuilding and engineering, and almost as certainly harm would result; and he would like to put a question to that most brilliant advocate of protection, his hon. friend the Secretary for the Board of Trade, and ask him to answer with that honesty he always showed when he was expressing his opinion on this or any other subject—did he, as an experienced man of business, one who had had to do in the great city of Glasgow with shipowning as well as shipbuilding, did he or did he not believe that these trades were bound to suffer, or at any rate could get no good from a change of our system? Some Gentlemen in the House might be astonished that they had in this Resolution taken not only shipping, but its kindred industries; but in that they were justified. They could not consider a workman apart from the tools he used; they could not consider a trade apart from its instruments of operation. Handicap a trade by fiscal regulations, when it depended entirely upon such raw materials as untaxed maize, cotton, or wool, and they would doubtless do it some harm; but handicap a trade whose raw material was an article every piece of which would be injuriously affected itself by a system of import duties, and a double wrong was committed, even if the industry was not actually ruined. He remembered a very pertinent inquiry made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham—Are all other nations fools? Carlyle once made an allegation from which he obviously meant to exclude himself, and they could guess what he would have said if he had been alive now. But he welcomed that saying, because it gave them a direct invitation for debating this question, not only on the point of reason, where they prevailed, but from analogy, where they were in even as strong a position.

Let them take a few figures, and only a very few, showing the position occupied by this country now and in former years, and the position occupied by countries which had adopted protection, and then let them judge of what the right hon. Gentleman's proposals would mean to this country. They found that the great free-trade nations in shipping and its kindred industries were two in number —Germany and ourselves, with Norway following up in a similar way. Germany had no restriction of her coasting trade, no duty on ships or shipbuilding material, and therefore stood with Great Britain side by side in the argument. France, Italy, Austria, America, and Russia, all the great exponents of the right hon. Gentleman's policy, whom he evidently intended to exclude from the Carlyle characterisation, restricted the trade on their coasts, charged, generally speaking, duties on ships and materials, and all paid large subsidies, much larger in proportion than Germany, which again paid much less in proportion to ourselves, and, like ourselves, only for services rendered. He had obtained for greater accuracy a few figures from a registry—Lloyd's in fact—of the comparative tonnage of the world, and he was not including the Colonies; he took Great Britain *per se.* In 1900 13,000,000 tons represented Britain; 2,500,000 the United States; 2,500,000 Germany; 1,250,000 France; and under 1,000,000 Italy, Spain and Russia. From 1900 to 1904 the net gain to Britain had been more than 1,900,000 tons, allowing for discarding of all old vessels; for the United States, including the Great Lakes and restricted coasting trade the growth had been 1,200,000 tons; in Germany, which had no great lakes, which had no protected coast, and which had to compete like ourselves with all the rest of the world, the growth had been no less than about 35 per cent., or 800,000 tons; France, on the other hand, with all the terrible subsidies she paid, reaching in the case of building to almost as much in the way of subsidy as an East Coast builder here got for the bigger part of a ship's price, had only managed to struggle on from 1,240,000 tons to 1,600,000; Italy was only 180 tons over a million; Spain had only gained 164,000 tons; and Russia had only risen from 643,000 tons to 809,000 tons. The slow process of dissolution of this great Empire which had been going on should have made itself apparent in the most sensitive trade we had, namely, that of shipowning. There had been change, but not in the direction indicated by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, and there never would be so long as the great shipping trade was given freedom.

Where did it stand to gain by a protectionist policy? If the right hon. Gentleman were successful he would stop the import of manufactured goods into this country, and therefore foreigners would be unable to take our goods in repayment, so that we should lose both coming and going. If he were successful, the colonial preference scheme also was an illusion, because we had been plainly told by colonial ministers that the last thing they contemplated was an increase of British imports into any of the Colonies. On the other hand, shipowners stood to lose by the increase in the price of their tools. Any man in America would say, if asked, that he paid 30 per cent. more for his ships than we did, and that it cost him 50 per cent. more to run them. Then there were the Colonies. What did we pay in the Colonies to a stoker? A common fireman on board a colonial vessel earned as much in a month as many a second engineer on board a British steamer. £9 a month was the pay of a fireman in a fair-sized steamer in the Colonies. And why could that be maintained? Simply because protective legislation had come in, which insisted that no foreign vessel, which included a Britisher, not registered in the Colonies should trade from one port to another in the Colonies without coming under the same restrictions in every sense as the local-owned colonial vessel.

As to the effect of the rise in the price of tools, what would be the result to the shipbuilder? He might give an instance. Some little time ago he was asked to write an article for a review upon the effect of tariff reform on shipbuilding, and the first things he looked for were facts, so he made an examination into the costs in various countries. Some countries were out of it. Russia, for example, with all the raw material that the goodness of God could confer on a country, with a population who would welcome the wages paid by us to the lowest class labourer as something beyond the dreams of avarice, had yet been unable to establish anything but Government shipbuilding yards in her country. Spain, which country had been making great efforts lately to increase her mercantile marine by purchase, was still unable to supply her wants from her own factories. We drew the most of the raw materials from Spain with which we made the pig-iron and plates for our ships; we drew our copper from Spain, our lead from Spain; and Spain took her ships from us. France, with subsidies for the mere building of a ship equal to the bigger part of the price of a ship in this country, was unable to compete. Why? Because every ounce of their raw material was protected, and they were unable to buy their material at prices which would allow them to build for anything but a subsidised or premium-paying line. And as for America, that country which, if the Creator could in any way be lavish, he had certainly not forgotten, where they made more pig-iron, drew more ore, brought up more coal, had more immigrants of the best possible class, than any country in the world, was unable to touch us by 30 to 40 per cent. And why? Because manufacturers were not always philanthropists; because though a man might give many charitable donations with the one hand, he was taking with the other money he had ground out of his unfortunate fellow-subjects. The following were the authentic figures which he obtained within one week from various parts of the world. We were paying for steel plates in Glasgow on a given day in the month of July, 1903, £5 7s. 6d. The price on the East Coast of England at that date was £5 12s. 6d. By arrangement with a celebrated German firm he obtained from them the price they were paying at that date, viz., £5 13s. 7d.; also by arrangement, which was a little difficult to carry out, but which was successful, he obtained from a reliable source in America what steelmakers were charging for the same article at the same time, and it was no less than £8 15s. He would leave the matter to the House; in fact, he would be willing to leave it to the Secretary of the Board of Trade. Did he or did he not recommend this alteration, and, if he did not, why not?

He would conclude by making a small allusion to the speech of his noble friend the Member for Greenwich. Unionist free-traders had had a rough time but many had had a much rougher time than he had. He could not accuse the tariff-reformers of great hostility in Scotland. He had no reason to complain of them; he had equally no reason to complain of his Liberal friends. He was not opposed by a tariff-reformer; he was opposed by an orthodox Liberal, and he had no right to grumble. He still held certain Unionist principles; he still held, with the noble Lord, that a large portion of the future of the country rested in the hands of the Unionist Party when that Party had been purged of a disease which he hoped was only superficial, and had not yet struck its roots deep into the flesh. If they could do that, as the noble Lord said, what did a few casualties in the rank and file of the Party matter, so long as they could get leaders capable and sound at heart. Might he venture to appeal to the Prime Minister, their Leader, if he would really be so. Could he fail to be convinced now that loyalty to a respected, but, he thought, mistaken colleague could be carried so far as to menace the existence of a great Party? Would he not come out from among these old friends who had contracted this mania, and lead the remnant of the Party which was free from it If he would do so, the democratic Conservative Party, now momentarily divorced from the people, might again become the Party of the people, under a Leader any one might be proud to follow. Present sacrifices for some of them might be future gain for all; they must take their chance of that. But he did entreat his fellow-countrymen to pause and consider as to whether any evils that might have been with them in the past, and might touch them in the future, should be met, not by a resort to an artificial stimulus appealing directly to the most selfish of man's instincts, but by the exercise of individual ability and hard work, which had brought this country, with free trade, to where she now was, and which, with enthusiastic co-operation between employers and employed added, would maintain her in that position if those canons were not violated.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That, in the opinion of this House, grave injury would be caused to the shipping industry and to other industries dependent thereon by the adoption of the changes in the existing fiscal system proposed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham."—(*Mr. Osmond Williams.*)

*MR. DAVID MACIVER (Liverpool, Kirkdale) said he had not intended to take part in the debate, but after the speech just delivered he wished to say a few words not in any way as representing shipping Members generally, but as speaking on behalf of his own constituency and himself personally. The Shipping Committee had held a meeting that afternoon and the general feeling was that it was undesirable to take part in the debate. The admirable and really eloquent speech of the seconder of the Resolution was the best presentation of the case of the opponents of tariff reform he had heard, but it was very largely an argument based on false premises. A great deal had been said by the hon. Member for the Kilmarnock Burghs, as well as by other speakers and writers, of the state of shipbuilding in the United States, the decay of which they, somewhat absurdly, attributed to protection. What they had forgotten was that the United States as regards shipbuilding was in reality a free-trade country.

*COLONEL DENNY: I forgot to mention the question of drawbacks. I did know about the question of drawbacks in the United States, but they do not work.

*MR. DAVID MACIVER said there was a good deal which his hon. friend had omitted to state, but which he would endeavour to explain in as clear terms as he could. The United States Tariff Act expressly provided that all duties levied upon importations of shipbuilding materials should be given back in the shape of drawback in respect of vessels built in the United States for foreign trade and for their coasting trade between the Atlantic and Pacific ports. The effect was that practically all duties were given back except in the case of vessels for the lake service, and the near coasting trade.

*MR. REA (Gloucester): Then why do not they build the ships?

*MR. DAVID MACIVER said that the cost of labour was very much higher in America. The country was prosperous, and men would not work for the wages which were current in this country. Shipbuilding artisans in the United States got 40 to 50 per cent. more wages than was paid here for similar work. Americans also could not operate ships as cheaply as we could in this country, because they were obliged by law to have a certain proportion of their crew and all their certificated officers American subjects. No doubt American shipowners had to pay higher wages just as American shipbuilders had to do, but the actual materials could be imported from this country or the Continent free of duty. They imported very little; but that was only because their own steel manufacturers were wise enough to give them special terms which made it cheaper to buy at home. His hon. friend the Member for the Kilmarnock Burghs was a shipbuilder of great eminence, but he had rather a speciality. He built splendid turbine steamers and high-class passenger boats, but he did not build to any large extent the class of vessels commonly used for carrying cargoes generally throughout the world. The hon. Member numbered amongst his clients a great foreign company—the Austrian-Lloyd. He did not say that that had any great effect on the hon. Member's views, but it was an indication that he had certain foreign clients. The interests of foreign cleints were not always those of the people of this country.

*COLONEL DENNY: We have not built a ship for the Austrian-Lloyd Company for fifteen years.

*MR. DAVID MACIVER said he was sorry to hear that, because he remembered the day when the hon. Member's firm used to build them all. He remembered the day also when the vessels of the Hamburg-American Company were built on the Clyde, but now that business had gone away. The mover of the Resolution spoke of American shipbuilding, and drew a picture of the magnificent fleet of American ships in days gone by, which had been swept from the seas. He ascribed that to protection, but as a matter of fact protection had nothing whatever to do with it.

MR. OSMOND WILLIAMS: It had everything to do with it.

*MR. DAVID MACIVER said that the cause was the change from wood to iron. The magnificent fleet of American ships to which the mover of the Resolution referred had been built under protection and owed its existence to cheap timber; but when timber gave place to iron the whole circumstances were altered. A great deal had been said about Liverpool.

The hon. Gentleman who moved the Resolution spoke as if he thought Liverpool shipowners generally sympathised with his views. He held in his hand a document which was issued on the authority of the Liverpool branch of the Tariff Reform League. It was not without interest to the House, because it contained the names of those Liverpool shipowners who were directly and officially connected with the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. The president was Sir Alfred Jones, the chairman Mr. J. H. Welsford, and the executive included Mr. Aubrey Brocklebank, Mr. Arthur Cook, Mr. R. W. Leyland, and himself, and amongst the names on the general committee were Mr. Collard and Mr. Beckett Hill, all well-known shipowners. Mr. Beckett Hill was a partner in the firm of Allan Brothers & Co., and was chairman last year of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association. Mr. Collard was a partner in the firm of R. P. Houston & Co., and was the previous chairman of the Liverpool Steamship Owners' Association. He had got the names of all the shipowners in Liverpool, and there ~~were~~ only five or six amongst the whole number holding views other than of perfect accord with the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. They were many of them even financial supporters of the views of the right hon. Gentleman. The shipowners to whom he had referred made their living out of carrying the produce of the manufacturers of the country. Anything for the good of the manufacturers of the country—and therefore of the people—was, they believed, to the interest of the shipowner, because if hostile tariffs were broken down and our export trade could be increased, shipowners would have more to carry. Nearly all of those shipowners who were engaged in the carriage of general cargo believed that Mr. Chamberlain's proposals would tend to increase the carrying trade of the country, and be better for shipping. But why were some shipowners of a different opinion? At a recent deputation from the coal trade to the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the shilling a ton duty it was stated that 80 per cent. of the entire exports of this country consisted of coal. That meant that four-fifths of the shipping, so far as exports were concerned, had nothing to do with the manufactures of the country. Shipowners engaged in that business were not interested either one way or the other in the export trade as far as manufactures were concerned. The improvement of our export trade in manufactured goods would not benefit them. They never carried anything except coal; and their business interests were not the same as the business interest of the shipowners of Liverpool. He might go further and say that many vessels sailing out of Liverpool were not British steamers. They sailed under the British flag, but belonged to an American combine. He believed the Member for Gloucester, to whose information and that of the Member for Dewsbury the mover had acknowledged himself in part indebted, had considerable business interests in carrying coals for such a combine. He did not say that those interests were anything but the most legitimate, but they were not the same as the ordinary interests of shipowners in this country. Shipowners in the coal trade were not affected by the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, and their views in regard to fiscal questions depended mainly upon their politics.

He did not wish to trouble the House with figures, but he wished to give his authority for what he had stated, and whenever it was possible he preferred to appeal to the authority of his political opponents. The gentleman he would call as witness was Mr. John Williamson, brother of the late Mr. Stephen Williamson, well known to many hon. Members as the much-respected Member for the Montrose Burghs, who had made a careful study of the exports of this country. According to statistics compiled by Mr. J. Williamson and explained by him in a paper read before the Chamber of Shipping at their annual meeting in London last year, there had been no real increase in the volume of our exports in the last twenty years with the exception of the trade in coal.

Mr. GIBSON BOWLES (Lynn Regis) asked if the exports included ships.

*Mr. DAVID MACIVER said he referred to manufactured goods carried in ships, and in these there had as regards volume been a diminution, while the export coal trade had enormously increased. That statement had support in the returns of exports and imports upon which dues had been paid to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board. The trade of the port of Liverpool showed an enormous increase last year as compared with previous years in every item of receipts except one, and that was the export of manufactured goods. Last year the port of Liverpool received about £13,000 more in respect of dock and town dues upon imports than in the previous year; while the amount received in respect of dock and town dues upon exports was £1,100 less. With reference to the point raised by the hon. Member for King's Lynn in regard to ships, he had not actual figures, but he was certain we had not the pre-eminence in shipbuilding for foreign nations that we used to have. A list of the 178 steamers of the Hamburg-American Company, in which were included some of the finest vessels in the world, and of the North-German Lloyd Fleet of 152 steamers, would give an indication of the success of foreign competition in this respect. These were only two out of several great and admirably managed German shipping companies; nor were our German friends our only competitors. Hon. Members had only to go to the reading room and take up the advertising sheet of *The Times* to get some idea of what these foreign ships were doing. We had still got a pre-eminence in coal carrying, but our pre-eminence in all other respects had entirely gone. It had gone to protectionist countries, who were beating our manufacturers out of the field, not through any fault of our manufacturers, but because their rivals had a larger market, because they had a protected home market, and were able thereby to quote lower prices for the export market. Our shipowners so far as the best class of shipping was concerned, were suffering with our manufacturers. We were being beaten, and well beaten, upon every one of the great trade routes; and in every part of the world. Our carrying trade was going from us by reason of our insane persistence in this free import system, because we had not taken the reasonable means—protection if they liked—to retain our hold on that trade, because we had not yet adopted the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. He was quite sure we must adopt that policy, if this country was to regain her position.

He thought it was a great misfortune that fiscal questions should have become Party questions, because not only the Unionist Party, but the whole common sense of the people of this country had to be converted before they could adopt the new fiscal proposals. He was glad to see his hon. friend the Member for the Flint Boroughs in his place, because there was a book published a couple of years ago, before fiscal questions became Party questions, from which he would like to quote a few passages to the House. The book was entitled "My Life Work, by Samuel Smith, M.P.," and Mr. Smith wrote this—

> "I may take this opportunity of saying that I believe a great change has passed over this country on the question of free trade . . . . All nations except our own have gone in an opposite direction. The United States and our Colonies have flourished exceedingly under a contrary policy. None but idealogues would

> now accuse the American people, the shrewdest on earth, of being blind to their own interest. It is a matter of common knowledge that no nation since the world began has advanced with such rapidity in wealth and commerce as the United States in the past fifty years; yet it has increasingly adopted a protective policy. Our exports to that country are not more than they were fifty years ago, while we now import three or four times as much, and the balance of trade between us and the United States shows some £119,000,000 a year in their favour! The mere strumming upon the shibboleths of Cobden and Bright—true at the time they were uttered—will not save us, and a fresh survey of the whole industrial situation is absolutely necessary."

That was written by an hon. Member who had recently been busy in Wales talking free trade and electioneering with the hon. Member for the Carnarvon Boroughs. He thanked the House for listening so patiently to his remarks, and he thought he had said enough to show the hollowness and absurdity of the contention that the shipping industry of this country in any way benefited under the free import system.

*Mr. REA said that anybody who was acquainted with the shipping trade of the port of Liverpool would not have been very much struck with the statement made by the hon. Member who had just sat down. With regard to the list of names which had been produced by the hon. Member for Liverpool, such a Member would have been much more struck with the names which did not appear on that list than with the names which did appear there. He was sorry that the hon. Member had mentioned his name in connection with the American combine, because he had nothing whatever to do with it. When that combine was formed it was an international concern, but the ownership was held in a preponderating degree in this country. Since the formation of that line the founder of it had disappeared, and the American president had disappeared. The sole control and management of that great combine was now in this country, and it was to-day as much an English concern as any other concern in the port of Liverpool or the port of London. The hon. Member for Kirkdale spoke of American shipbuilding as being carried on under equal conditions with this country because they were able to import their materials free by law. But why did they not do so? Witness after witness before the Commission held in Washington gave evidence to the effect that this concession was absolutely illusory. Although the American shipbuilders could import materials for shipbuilding free by law, their hands were so tied by conditions that they could not import freely for their industry the different materials which by law they were permitted to import.

The argument that we were falling behind in the general shipping trade of the world was answered perfectly easily. Speaking at Liverpool, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham took a period of ten years, and, including Japan, he erroneously made out that the increase of British tonnage was not as great as the increase of foreign tonnage. If they excluded Japan, the figures for Great Britain alone, excluding the Colonies, were much larger than the figures for the rest of the world. The figures were now available for another year. In that year we had added to our registered tonnage 450,000 tons, and all the rest of the world, including Japan, but excluding Russia, because the figures for that country were not available, had added only 400,000 tons. The shipping trade was absolutely the greatest trade in this country. Its gross turnover was equal to that of our great railway system—namely, a trifle over £100,000,000. He did not mean to say that in regard to the amount of capital invested the shipping trade was to be compared with British railways, but in the amount of turnover and returns the business done was equal to the whole railway business of this country. They had had such a deluge of fiscal statistics poured upon them that he felt sure every hon. Member was getting weary of them. but there were certain broad facts which he thought it would be just as well to state. The over-sea trade from the ports of the United Kingdom was one-fifth of the trade of the whole world, but the trade done in British ships was one-half, and, if we took the length of the voyages and value of the trade into account, more than one-have of the whole shipping trade of the world.

There was one fact connected with this great trade which ought to be borne in mind by those who supported the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, and it was that of this half of the trade of the world, more than one-half was trade between foreign countries which did not touch the ports in this country at all. The principal protected countries gave more employment to British ships than the United Kingdom itself. Of the tonnage in our own ports two-thirds was with these protective countries, and only 15 per cent. was with the British possessions, and of this trade at home one-fifth was peculiarly ours, that was to say, the transshipment trade, which was very valuable to the shipowners and the shipping classes in this country. Shipping was not only the biggest trade in the country, but it was by far the best. It was the most Imperial and the most necessary to us as an island people. He would say more—it gave the very best employment to the people of this country of any trade in which we were engaged. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham said that the British working man was "being paid more and more with invisible exports"—being paid, not paying. That was an example of how incapable tariff-reformers were of distinguishing between debit and credit. The cotton trade produced £90,000,000 a year, and the export was £70,000,000. But it had to pay £40,000,000 to the foreigner for raw material. This invisible export was not a staple material product that could be seen, but it was payment for labour, and therefore invisible. It consisted in payment for ships built in British yards, almost altogether of British material. These ships were engined in British works, officered and engineered by British subjects, and far the greater part of the crews were British. They were repaired in British yards, provisioned by British dealers, coaled by British coal, and insured in British offices. That was where the money went. If there was anything left it went to the shipowner for his remuneration, but at present he was afraid he had to go without it.

The shipping trade was not only our biggest, but it was the direct product of our fiscal policy. Other countries had founded great trades because local conditions were favourable. Providence had given the coal trade to South Wales and Pennsylvania and the cotton trade to Lancashire. But nothing had helped England on the ocean except its policy. The shipping trade was one which was open to everybody, and in free competition with all the protectionist powers in the world our supremacy was now such that it might almost be called a monopoly. This supremacy dated from the institution of tree trade. It did not exist before. In 1846 America was almost our equal, and other nations were not very far behind, but from the institution of free trade and the abolition of the navigation laws in 1849 dated the progress of the British mercantile marine, which had arrived at its present pre-eminence. He did not say that our free-trade policy alone could have achieved this astounding result. It had been aided by the protectionist policy of other nations. Other nations had one by one dropped out, while we had increased our shipping trade under their protectionist system. Germany was an apparent and not a real exception, because in this particular matter she had been content to act on free-trade principles. Our great shipping trade was a fair target for everybody, and if we engaged in a tariff war with other nations it was through that trade they would hit us. In America it was already possible for the President, at any moment, to put on a duty of 10 per cent. on all imports brought in by ships of a foreign nation in addition to the ordinary tax authorised by law. It was not probable that the President would impose that tax so long as there was no friction with foreign nations, but if we entered into a tariff war with America it was shipping that would be hit, and it would be hit effectually. How could we retaliate? There were gentlemen who advocated that we should establish restrictive legislation in regard to shipping and impose differential dues. That was not practicable, because out of 36,000,000 of foreign tonnage in our ports we could only hit about 4,000,000. He could not understand how any shipowner could support the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. It was to him a perplexing phenomenon and only showed that men might run and operate ships without any knowledge of the principles that formed the very basis of their practice and success.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR (Liverpool, Exchange) said he intended to vote for the Motion, but he discriminated between the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and the policy of the Prime Minister. A good deal had been said about personal interest. He was not a shipowner, and had no shares in shipping, but even if he had he hoped he would subordinate personal interest. He condemned the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham because it sought to found the unity of the Empire upon a basis of self-interest, and more particularly upon a basis of the taxation of food. He objected to it also because it would tend to increase the cost of building and working ships, and would diminish the volume of trade on which our shipping prosperity depended. Any benefit would only be a transitory one, and the advantage to shipping was very illusory. His hon. friend the Member for the Kirkdale Division had referred to the opinion of the Liverpool Chamber of Commerce, and had stated that the great majority of Liverpool shipowners were favourable to the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. He knew many eminent shipowners who supported that policy and many who strongly objected to it, but whether the majority was of one opinion or the other he had no means of deciding. He thought there was among the shipowners of Liverpool and the country generally a feeling of dissatisfaction with the way in which the shipping trade was carried on at the present time. The hon. Member for Gloucester had stated that this country had sustained its prosperity amounting to a monopoly in the case of shipping. He did not think the hon. Member intended to say that. He thought, the present condition of the shipping trade had been described in too glowing terms by the hon. Member. If his information was correct, the trade had reached its zenith and had entered upon a period of declension. In the twelve years between 1890 and 1902 Great Britain had lost 10 per cent. of the tonnage of the world During the last twenty years British tonnage entering and clearing from the United Kingdom had increased by only 50 per cent., and foreign tonnage had increased by 119 per cent.

*MR. REA: May I ask whether the hon. Member is taking the entrances and clearances as his test?

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he was taking the amount of tonnage of the entrances and clearances. Did the House realise what was meant by the figures he had quoted? In the period to which he referred British shipping coming in and going out had only increased 50 per cent., while foreign tonnage had more than doubled.

MR. GIBSON BOWLES: What are your original figures? One might mean 100 and the other 100,000.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he had not got the figures with him, but he thought the percentages spoke for themselves.

MR. LOUGH (Islington, N.): It is most misleading.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he found that in 1881 the British tonnage was 41,000,000; and in 1902 it was 64,000,000. In 1881 the foreign tonnage was 16,000,000; and in 1902 it was 35,000,000.

*MR. REA asked whether the hon. Member could state how much of the tonnage referred to as entrances and clearances was represented by large German steamers which called for passengers and did not interfere with the export and import trade of the country at all, and further whether he could state how much of the tonnage referred to Channel steamers which were owned by the Continental railway companies and were counted every day in the year.

MR. CHARLES McARTHUR said he was giving the figures with respect to tonnage from all sources. There was a great deal of misgiving as to the future of the shipping trade. He would remind the House that the Shipping Subsidies Committee came to the conclusion that, although British shipping was in the main holding its own, there was great cause for anxiety and exertion. The Committee went into the subject very carefully; and they attributed the present position of British shipping to the very large bounties given by many other countries to their shipping, to indirect bounties, such as free dock and harbour accommodation, and to the exclusion by some foreign countries of British shipping from their coastwise trade. That Committee came to the conclusion that the time had come when we might ask for reciprocity in this matter. This brought him to say something about retaliation. That was a word they did not like. It seemed to be "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," but what was wanted was not hostile retaliation leading to great tariff wars, which were to a large extent a disadvantage to the countries concerned. He ought perhaps to except from that statement the tariff war between Russia and Germany, which only lasted for a short time, and was attended with satisfactory results to both countries. He would ask those hon. Members who approached this subject from what he might call the extreme free-trade point of view, why they always spoke about imports and never mentioned exports? In his view the true free-trade policy was that which endeavoured to remove restrictions on exports without interfering with the system of imports. Those hon. Members seemed to argue that if we increased our imports our exports increased themselves. This seemed the same as saying that if we increased our expenditure our income would increase itself. He would remind them that the producer had rights as well as the consumer, and that he was equally entitled with the consumer to the benefits of free competition. While he very much regretted, in many of its aspects, the great agitation which the country had been passing through for some time, he believed it would do good if it led people to realise the economic conditions which were essential to commercial prosperity. Whilst he condemned the policy of the right hon. Gentleman, which he thought would be injurious to the country, and particularly to shipping, at the same time he believed that the system of free imports and restricted exports was not the most favourable possible to the shipping interests of this country. What was wanted was free trade all round, and therefore he supported a modification of the present system.

*MR. RENWICK (Newcastle-on-Tyne) said he thought there would be a general consensus of opinion that what had taken place to-night proved conclusively that certain important questions raised on a private Member's Resolution could not be adequately discussed between nine o'clock and twelve o'clock, especially when the mover and seconder of the Resolution occupied such a considerable proportion of the three hours. He had listened with the greatest interest to the speech of the hon. Member who proposed the Resolution; but he must confess that he had heard very little germane to the subject. A great deal was said about the Stars and Stripes and about the great city of Liverpool having been built up by free trade. He would remind the hon. Member that if he looked at the opposite side of the Atlantic he would behold New York, compared with which in size Liverpool sank into insignificance He would see in that city a river alive with shipping, a city not built up on the system of free trade, but on a system of protection. The speech of the hon. Member for the Kilmarnock Burghs was entitled to the consideration of everyone who took an interest in the subject. The main current running through that speech was that it was impossible to carry on shipbuilding without cheap wages, and naturally it followed that there should be also cheap materials. A good deal had been heard about the decaying industry of shipbuilding and shipowning in the United States, and they were told that that was owing to protection. He did not think for a moment that protection had anything to do with it. Previous to 1863, when they saw those magnificent American clippers going to and fro from our ports, there was protection in the United States; but at that time there was only a glimmering of the great transition from the use of timber to iron in shipbuilding. While shipbuilding was being carried on by the aid of timber British North America and the United States were prominent in the shipbuilding world. But after the American Civil War when iron was substituted for timber in shipbuilding, this country, with its great supplies of coal and iron close to its splendid waterways, forged ahead. There was nothing to prevent the United States at the present time building ships, for they had the best machinery and the best skilled workmen. Why did these workmen not build ships then? It was because it paid them better to be engaged in other industries. If anyone disagreed with that let him put it to an American working man whether he would be content to accept the same wages as were paid in British shipyards in order to build up an American marine; and the answer would be "No."

It should be remembered that Continental nations and America could buy ships from us as cheaply as we could buy them, whether it was from the yards of the Tyne, the Wear, or the Clyde; and what was more, all foreign nations got the same benefit as we did from our ships. Their goods were carried as cheaply as ours. But foreign nations had advantages which we did not enjoy. With these advantages Germany had built, equipped, engined, and managed finer and faster vessels than we possessed. Was that anything that we ought to be proud of? And when it was suggested we should do something to regain the supremacy of the Atlantic no British shipowner was prepared to do it, and the Government came forward with a loan of £2,500,000 at a low rate of interest to enable two vessels to be built to compete with the German liners in the Atlantic trade. And yet we called ourselves a free-trade country! He would remind eminent ship-owners opposite that foreign countries were running us a close race in many of our staple trades, such as the coal-carrying trade. Last year 64 per cent. not only of the number of ships but of the tonnage cleared from the Port of Blyth was foreign. It was similar in the Bristol Channel ports. There was a growing preponderance of foreign vessels, and that was because the foreigner carried on his shipping trade on more advantageous terms than we did. Mr. Walter Runciman, senior, speaking at the launch of one of his own vessels pointed out that British shipowners were handicapped owing to the harassing policy of the sailors' and firemen's unions. The wages bill of a British ship of 2,000 tons was £62 10s. per month and cost of provisions £10 per month greater than of a Norwegian or Swedish ship of the same size. Mr. Runciman went on to say that he had, therefore, entered into negotiations to put his firm's older vessels under a foreign flag, and the effect of that on his whole fleet would be a saving of £20,000 per annum. When that was the result, he believed they would put patriotism on the shelf, and go in for the money. Mr. Runciman added that Scandinavian sailors were the best clothed, most respectable, and best conducted sailors he knew.

The Resolution before the House really referred to some proposal put forward by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham; but, as far as he could gather, these proposals had only been put forward in a sort of tentative form as to what might, under certain conditions, be carried out. The right hon. Gentleman first pointed out very properly that by a rearrangement of our duties upon a common-sense basis, viz., by taxing the goods from abroad which we could produce ourselves, and admitting free goods which we did not produce, we might do a great deal of benefit to the people of this country. That was a policy which he himself believed would be carried out before very long. [AN HON. MEMBER on the OPPOSITION Benches: Will you vote for it?] Yes, if the question were put fairly before the country. He had never feared to say before the public outside that he was in favour of such an alteration. He would remind hon. Gentlemen opposite that so long ago as 1892, when a fair and square fight took place in Newcastle-on-Tyne on fair trade, the right hon. Member for Montrose was placed second on the poll, and the fair-trader was placed triumphantly at the head. Ever since then they had never been afraid in Newcastle to avow that some alteration in the fiscal policy was necessary. What effect would that alteration in the fiscal policy have on the shipping trade? It might, to a certain extent, curtail the import of manufactured goods; but that would not injure the shipping industry. Shipowners were more anxious to carry raw materials than manufactured goods. He would like to take away manufactured goods made in this country rather than bring here goods manufactured abroad. There was no proposal whatever to put any tax on raw materials, they were the best cargo for shipowners. The other proposal of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was to bring the Colonies into closer commercial union with the mother country. Would that do any harm to the shipping trade? No, because bulk was of greater importance to shipowners than value. To bring a million pounds worth of bullion from Australia or South Africa to this country was of comparatively little value to the shipowner; what they wanted was to bring raw materials, and above all raw materials and corn from a long distance; and the greater the distance the larger the ships they would have to build. The shipbuilder had solved the problem by building larger ships to carry the cargo long distances for the same freight as the smaller vessels could carry it from the near Continental ports. Therefore, if trade between the Colonies and the mother country was increased there would be an enormous expansion of the shipping trade. If only that trade could be expanded, depend upon it, neither shipowners nor shipbuilders had anything to fear, but could look forward to an era of prosperity greater than they had ever hitherto enjoyed.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen S.) said that the hon. Gentleman who had just spoken had shown an example in debating this question in a serious way. He had stated very clearly what were the views entertained by the protectionist Party on this subject. He had been struck by one expression of the hon. Member, that when the question was fairly put he would be prepared to give a vote. Why did not the hon. Member induce his leaders to put the question fairly? Surely the sooner the question was put fairly both in this House and in the country it would be better for everyone. But he noticed that when the question was put before the House last week the hon. Gentleman was not prepared to give a vote upon it. The hon. Member said that an alteration in the fiscal policy might curtail the import of manufactured goods; but that he did not care for because it would not injure the import trade in raw materials. Did the hon. Gentleman believe that he could increase the import of raw materials, and all those semi-manufactured articles so largely used in our industries, by raising the price of food; and did he think it possible, consistently with his colonial policy, to avoid taxing some raw materials such as wool? The hon. Gentleman said he was anxious to maintain long-distance traffic because the Colonies were in the most distant parts of the world. Not all of them. But this country did not do its largest trade with the Colonies. At present we had the enormous preponderance of trade, both export and import, with the Colonies already. No other country in the world was in it with us. If we took other countries, like Argentina, with its rich corn lands, and with which we had, if not the monopoly, the bulk of the trade, he asked whether the hon. Member wanted us to begin his policy of protective tariffs by destroying that carrying trade?

A comparison had been made by the hon. Gentleman between Liverpool and New York, but he submitted that that comparison would not hold, because New York was the outlet of a gigantic continent, and ought not to be compared with any port in this country. But, even in the port of New York the bulk of the seagoing ships were British. There were, of course, coasting steamers which did the trade between the different ports on the sea-board of the different States of the United States. But the majority of the seagoing ships in New York were British. The hon. Member said that we had developed in this country our shipping trade because we had coal and iron. But had they not in the United States coal and iron in far greater quantities than we had? The development of the American coal and iron trade was one of the most extraordinary industrial facts of recent years. The reason why the Americans had not developed their shipping trade was because it cost about a third more to build iron ships there than in this country. The hon. Member should read the Report of the Committee on Ships Subsidies in America, and note the despairing cry about tariffs and the duties on raw materials and manufactured articles. The hon. Member said that the Americans could buy their ships here; yes, but they had to pay a tariff on those ships when they went to America. No better object-lesson of the deleterious and injurious effects of a protective policy on a given industry could be supplied than in its effect on shipbuilding in America. In 1870, after the effects of the civil war had passed away, the American shipping trade was nearly twice what it now was, and that was the result of protection.

For the third time he saw before him empty benches. They had been having a very important discussion. Why were not the representatives of the Board of Trade there? They could make a valuable contribution to the discussion. Then the other side would know what they had to meet. They had had an astonishing series of discussions. First there was the debate on protection initiated by the hon. Member for Oldham; then there was a debate on the particular doctrine of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, and last night there was a debate on retaliation. That evening they had had in a useful and instructive discussion the doctrines of retaliation brought to the test of a particular trade. He could imagine no way in which the House of Commons could be better employed, but those for whose benefit this instruction was intended were unfortunately absent. Their leading organs said that they required more time for social functions. The Leader of the House was away, and would never know what was passing in the House. He would never know, because there was no single one of his colleagues present to tell him, and because they knew he never read the newspapers, and still less would he read the proceedings in *Hansard*, because he contemned the House of Commons. He seemed to think there was no House of Commons unless he himself and his colleagues were present. This state of coma might be said to be the harbinger of a dissolution. How long were these grotesque performances to continue. The Prime Minister seemed to think that they were inert matter unless he passed a sort of electric current of his own personality through the House. He thought the House of Commons and instrument only for considering questions which the Government thought of submitting to it. He did not seem to recognise that they were there by the will of the people, to represent the people, to give voice to the sentiments of the people on questions which interested them, and that they should be neglecting their duty if they did not endeavour to discuss that very question in which the people were most interested at this moment. If the Prime Minister were there he should like to remind him that they were not there merely for the purpose of listening to the proposals that emanated from the Government, but to tell the Government what the people thought and what they wanted. The Prime Minister was away because his followers would not vote for or against protection, and the followers of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham were away because they knew they would be defeated. That was the way in which the great interests of the nation were being imperilled. In this miserable exhibition of cowardice and insincerity he thought that the protectionists after all were less cowardly and less insincere than the larger section which, with the Prime Minister, ran away in this pusillanimous manner. Never before had the head of a Government done this. This was one of those startling constitutional novelties which they owed to the present Prime Minister and by which his Ministry would be remembered, whatever else it was remembered by. There was one consolation. This sort of thing could not last. A Government which insisted on making itself ridiculous must be drawing near its end.

As to the particular Motion before the House, he desired to express admiration of the vigorous and independent speech, based on close personal knowledge, delivered by his hon. friend the Member for Kilmarnock. What possible benefit could protection be to shipping? Even the hon. Member for Newcastle, who had all the courage of his opinions, had not shown that; and he did not know how the shipping community could see anything but certain and increasing disadvantage in that which, *ex hypothesi*, would diminish the volume of British shipping trade. Our shipping was half the value of the shipping of the world, and more than half of its quality, when its higher speed was taken into account. The supremacy of British shipping was mainly due to three causes—the abolition of the navigation laws, the cheapness of shipbuilding, and our open ports. Free ports had made this country the emporium of the world.

Mr. RENWICK: What does the right hon. Gentleman mean by a free port?

Mr. BRYCE said a port where no duties were levied except for revenue.

Mr. RENWICK: That does not make a free port.

Mr. BRYCE said that was the sense in which he used the term. The hon. Gentleman would hardly differ from him in the opinion that the possibility of an enormous quantity of goods coming to our ports without having to go through a Custom-house had contributed to make this country an emporium of market commodities, and in making it that emporium had also made it a financial centre and a banking centre. It had also had a great deal to do with our transit trade. A great deal of our shipping was built with reference to a particular class of trade and particular customers, and they could not readily alter the ships to fit them for another kind of trade with other countries. What an enormous mark our shipping would be to the retaliatory policy of other countries! There was no branch of our trade in which protection would be more immediately and seriously injurious than it would be to our merchant shipping. Of that shipping we had every reason to be proud. Our shipping greatness had been built up on the policy of free trade. There had been nothing like it in the history of the world, not in the trading cities of the Middle Ages, in Venice, or in Genoa. The Dutch, who in later times took the lead in maritime commerce, never had the same proportion of the maritime trade of the world. That was something to be proud of. He claimed for our shipping trade that it was a link that most effectually bound the Colonies to the mother country. He claimed for it also that it was one of the sources of our naval strength. It was often said that it was largely for the protection of our mercantile marine that we had to maintain so large a Navy. That was true; but that mercantile marine was also one of the causes of the strength and power of our Navy. Through the mercantile marine our people had become so imbued with a capacity for sea life that they had become a sea-loving people. Through the mercantile marine we found the men to man our fleets, and through it our Navy had become what it was. They were told this was Nelson's year, but the centenary of Trafalgar was the last year in which this country would think of reversing a policy which had given Great Britain her hold on sea power.

Mr. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said he wished to make some reference to the quotation made by the hon. Member for Newcastle from a speech which his father delivered some years ago. The hon. Gentleman quoted only a small portion of it, but even that portion showed that the wages paid under a foreign flag were lower than the wages paid under our own. They in their firm were never so foolish as to transfer any vessel from the British flag to a foreign flag. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham seemed to think that British vessels would be sent on longer voyages than ever before under his scheme, but if that was the hon. Member for Newcastle's only serious argument the bottom was easily knocked out of it. The distance from the Black Sea to the United Kingdom was greater than from Canada to the United Kingdom, and the distance from Cape Colony to this country was less than from the Argentine. In fact, the very reasons given for altering the fiscal policy of this country did not work out in mere matters of miles. Then the hon. Gentleman entirely overlooked the main points put by the hon. Member for Kilmarnock Burghs and made no reference to the increased price of vessels in protectionist countries and no reference to the increased cost of repairs in protectionist countries—a very important item in those countries. The hon. Gentleman knew well enough that repairing was a serious item in all shipping firms. Then there was the increased price of stores, which was also a serious item. These, added up, made an extra expense of something like 50 per cent. The hon. Gentleman had said that British shipping was not making large profits, but what profits would it make if there was 50 per cent. added to the expenditure. Then the hon. Gentleman also said something about Britain having been compelled to subsidise the Cunard Company in order to retain our supremacy on the Atlantic. More than once he himself had pointed out that a more foolish policy was never adopted than that with regard to the Cunard Company. That was only another example of the foolishness of legislation by panic promoted by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. It was the right hon. Gentleman who got into a panic over the American combine; it was he who was the prime mover in the extraordinary Cunard scheme. The right hon. Gentleman was more short-sighted than any of his predecessors in the important office he had held.

The hon. Gentleman opposite said nothing on the question of retaliation, and made no reply to the statement of the hon. Member for Gloucester that shipping could be used as a target for retaliation whenever this country put such a system in force. Foreign countries would of course use our shipping as the first object for their attack, and for one reason that our shipping was right under their noses. They were taunted with our flags flying in their ports in greater numbers than their own, and they saw that our shipping was more vulnerable than anything else we possessed. If the hon. Gentleman imagined the people of this country were going to be so foolish as to jeopardise our shipping for pearl buttons or Moroccan jewellery he must believe they were greater fools than they had ever shown themselves to be before. He seemed scarcely to realise the enormous loss which would fall even on the shipping with which he was connected through the serious dislocation of trade. The great object of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Birmingham in his proposals at Glasgow was to prevent Russian corn from coming into this country in order that Canadian corn might be forced into it. The first effect on shipping would be that an enormous amount of the shipping now in existence, in fact some of the best ships now on the water, would be shut out of the Black Sea trade, and, according to his scheme would be forced into the Canadian trade for which they were totally unfitted. Something like 12,000,000 tons of shipping at present engaged in the near coast trade would be rendered absolutely useless for the Canadian and more disadvantageous trades which the right hon. Gentleman would endeavour to cultivate. He entirely overlooked the fact that if we could not obtain Canadian grain for our markets at cheaper prices than Russian grain, naturally the country was the loser. He also seemed to forget that they could not dislocate a homeward trade without entirely dislocating an outward trade. Voyages were not merely trips in one direction, but out and home trips. One great example might be given of the way in which trade might be dislocated by merely endeavouring, with a single eye in one direction, to bolster up an industry which owing to natural causes was not able to find a market in this country. The hon. Gentleman mentioned the coalfields of Pennsylvania. Some of the steam coal there rivalled our South Wales coal and was delivered on vessels more cheaply from Virginia to the Argentine, which was one of the principal markets for that class of coal, although the distance from Virginia to the Argentine was very much less than the distance from here to the Argentine. That was to say, the Americans had the advantage of distance, quality, and prices in their favour, yet somehow or other, although the Virginian coalowners had been very anxious to make an inroad, they had not been able to get a footing for the simple reason that America, in her folly, had closed her doors against Argentine commodities.

So it happened that outward freights from Virginia to the River Plate must be very much larger than the freights outwards from South Wales, and that was just sufficient to prevent the Argentine from getting coal from Virginia. He only gave that as an example in order to show that dislocation of the shipping trade would have much more far-reaching effects than either the hon. Gentleman or his right hon. leader had ever apprehended. They could not tell where the damage would stop. To introduce a system of protection into this country would not only damage the carrying trade but the shipbuilding trade as well, and he wished that they had had a word from the Member for East Belfast, who could have thrown some light on the subject. How was it the American combine had to build in Belfast rather than in Philadelphia? It was for the simple reason that Messrs. Harland and Wolff were able to build there 30 per cent. cheaper. Therefore we had this system branching out in every direction throughout the whole range of our industries. If they hit the shipping trade not only would they also hit the shipbuilding, but the iron trade, the coal trade, and all the other trades which depended primarily upon the shipping trade. Anyone who was so foolish as to throw sand into this delicate mechanism was worthy of the condemnation of this country.

*MR. J. A. PEASE (Essex, Saffron Walden) said in the two or three minutes which were left he would like to refer to the latest shipbuilding Returns published by the Board of Trade. The figures he was about to quote compared the average annual shipbuilding in the United States, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom during the past thirty years. With a view to avoid taking any special year he had taken the average of each of these countries for three decennial periods. The figures were as follows:—1874–83 United States, 171,000 tons; 1894–1893 United States, 131,000 tons; 1894–1903 United States, 178,000 tons; 1874–83 France, 30,000 tons; 1884–93 France, 27,000 tons; 1894–1903 France, 66,000 tons; 1874–83 Germany, 26,000 tons; 1884–93 Germany, 48,000 tons; 1894–1903 Germany, 88,000 tons; 1874–1883 United Kingdom, 553,000 tons; 1884–1893 United Kingdom, 615,000 tons; 1894–1903 United Kingdom, 815,000 tons, or in other words he said that a comparison of shipbuilding as between this country and foreign countries showed that whereas tonnage in the United States had increased per annum by only 7,000 tons, in France by 35,000 tons, and in Germany by 62,000 tons, it had increased in this country by 262,000 tons. Having regard to the fact that shipbuilding also involved the welfare of the coal, the iron and steel industries, which together gave more employment to labour than any other industry at home, surely it would be folly to raise a tariff which would prejudice the interests of our great shipbuilding industry.

Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this House, grave injury would be caused to the shipping industry and to other industries dependent thereon by the adoption of the changes in the existing fiscal system proposed by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham.—(*Mr. Osmond Williams.*)

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR [EXPENSES].

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

Resolved, That it is expedient to authorise the charge upon the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the Public Trustee or his officers appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee and Executor, and to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries and other expenses payable in pursuance of such Act.—(*Mr. Austin Chamberlain.*)

Resolution to be reported this day.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Sir A. ACLAND-HOOD, Somersetshire, Wellington) in moving the adjournment of the House said that, in accordance with the wishes of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean, it was proposed to take the Report on Vote 7 as the first order at nine o'clock to-morrow evening and the Report on Vote A as the second order.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

MR. RUNCIMAN (Dewsbury) said he wished to ask the Patronage Secretary of the Treasury whether he was aware that a Resolution had been passed by the House that night, *nemine contradicente*, pointing out that the scheme put forward by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham was detrimental to the interests of one of our greatest industries, the British shipping trade, and of industries closely allied thereto. He understood that the Prime Minister was not aware of what had passed in that House last night. But it was important that the Prime Minister should know this, because he was the Leader of the House, or had been in the afternoon, and ought to be aware of what was the opinion of the House, containing as it did the representatives of the nation. He would ask the right hon. Gentleman also to convey the information to the President of the Board of Trade and to the Secretary to the Board of Trade. He presumed the right hon. Gentleman was not in a position to state where the Secretary to the Board of Trade was that night—perhaps they had no right to inquire—but if there was one place in the world where he ought to have been that night it was in his place on the Treasury Bench.

MAJOR SEELY (Isle of Wight) said he desired to ask Mr. Speaker whether it was not a gross breach of constitutional usage for a salaried Minister of the Crown and servant of the State, whose Department was concerned not to be in his place on the Treasury bench on an occasion like the present?

*MR. SPEAKER: It is extremely undesirable that the Chair should be called upon to express an opinion upon matters of which the House is the proper judge.

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at Seven minutes after Twelve o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 30th March, 1905.

EARL OF KENMARE.

Ordered, That the Report of the Lord Chancellor of the United Kingdom, made to the House of Lords on Tuesday last, that the right of the Earl of Kenmare to vote at the elections of Representative Peers for Ireland has been established to his satisfaction, be sent to the Clerk of the Crown in Ireland, together with a certificate stating that such report has been made, and that the House has ordered it to be sent to the said Clerk of the Crown in Ireland.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Torpoint Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]. A witness ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Cardiff Railway Bill [H.L.]. Witnesses ordered to attend the Select Committee.

Malvern Water Bill; Leven's Patent —(Petition for Bill). Examiners' Certificates of non-compliance with the Standing Orders referred to the Standing Orders Committee on Tuesday next.

Clyde Navigation (Reconstitution) Bill [H.L.]. Reported from the Select Committee, with Amendments.

Shepton Mallet Gas Company (Electric Lighting) Bill [H.L.]. The CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES informed the House that the opposition to the Bill was withdrawn. The order made on the 20th instant discharged, and Bill committed.

South Lancashire Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction Railway and Dock Bill; Walker and Wallsend Union Gas Bill. Brought from the Commons; read 1^{a}; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

AFRICA, No. 3 (1905).

Memorandum on the state of the African Protectorates administered under the Foreign Office (in continuation of "Africa, No. 10, 1904").

ARMY.

General Annual Report of the British Army, for the year ended 30th September, 1904.

POST OFFICE.

Postal agreement for an exchange of money orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of Russia, dated the 17th (29th) October, 1904.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION (DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE).

Memorandum by the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign and Colonial laws relating to compensation for injuries to workmen. Vol. III. Supplementary Appendix.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND).

Return of the areas, population, and valuation of counties, burghs, and parishes in Scotland.

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).

Returns for the year 1903–1904.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE ACT (IRELAND), 1877.

Order in Council, dated 22nd February, 1905, giving effect to Rules of Court. Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the Public Health Acts. Was presented by the Lord Hylton; read 1^{a}; and to be printed. (No. 39.)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Standing Order No. XXXIX. considered (according to order), and suspended for this day's sitting.

THE BRITISH MISSION TO THE AMEER.

Lord REAY: My Lords, seeing the Under-Secretary of State for India in his place, I wish to ask him the following Questions, of which I have given him private notice: (1) has the Dane Mission left Cabul, as stated in the public Press; (2) has an Agreement been concluded with His Highness the Ameer of Afghanistan; (3) can the noble Marquess indicate the general purport of that Agreement; (4) will any Papers be laid on the Table of the House with reference to these negotiations.

The UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE for INDIA (The Marquess of Bath): My Lords, the Ameer and Mr. Dane have signed an Agreement which is in confirmation of the Agreement which existed between the British Government and the late Ameer. This Agreement will be laid on the Table as soon as its precise terms reach us from India. I believe that Mr. Dane with his Mission has left Afghanistan, and is due to arrive in India on April 8th.

Lord REAY: Can the noble Marquess give any general indication of the contents of the Agreement?

The Marquess of BATH: It is in confirmation of the Agreements which existed between the British Government and the late Ameer.

The Marquess of RIPON: It does not go beyond that?

The Marquess of BATH: No, I do not think it does.

SERVICE OF MILITIAMEN BILL [H.L.].

[Second Reading.]

Order of the day for the Second Reading read.

*__The UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE for WAR__ (The Earl of Donoughmore): My Lords, I do not, of course, deny that this Bill, which has been prepared by the Army Council and which I am asking your Lordships to read a second time to-day, involves a considerable change in our present military system, but I claim that the change is not so great as may at first appear. For centuries we have had a force in this country earmarked for home defence and known as the Militia, and though alterations have taken place from time to time in its conditions, for the greater part of the time that this force has existed the same principles will be found to underlie it. The Militia has been essentially a territorial force organised round the county. The Lord-Lieutenant had complete control of it. He could arm it as he liked. It was earmarked for the suppression and defeat of "insurrection, rebellion and invasion." Its expenses were paid by local owners of property. The nation only paid the expenses of the Militia during active service, and offences by Militiamen were punished by the civil magistrate. The force was practically a civil and not a military force.

These were the main principles underlying the Militia for centuries down in fact to the middle of the eighteenth century. These principles, I claim, are utterly unlike the principles underlying the Militia at the present day. In the middle of the eighteenth century there was introduced what proved to be that very expensive and very unpopular measure the ballot. I notice that non-attendance, disobedience of the ballot, was punished by the fine of 1s. or the spending of an hour in the stocks, and I often wonder whether the noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Wemyss) who is so anxious to revive the ballot, is also anxious to revive this ancient constitutional practice. It was not really till 1802 that the Militia began to assume the complexion under which we now know it. In 1813 an Act was passed whereby it was made possible for the King to accept offers of the Militia to serve abroad, and it was not until 1862 that the Estimates in connection with the Militia forces were framed under the direction of a Secretary of State. I trust, therefore, that your Lordships will remember, if it is argued that in bringing forward this Bill we are absolutely changing the constitution of this force, that it is not the first change that has taken place in the principles underlying it. From time to time it has undergone considerable modifications to meet modern requirements, and it is only because we wish to bring it into yet further conformity with modern requirements that this Bill is submitted to your Lordships.

Now, what are the principal reasons for this change? They are two in number. The first is undoubtedly the growth in the power of the British Fleet. That growth enabled the Prime Minister to declare eighteen months ago his belief that serious invasion need not be apprehended. That declaration recognises the Navy as the bed-rock of our national defence, and the natural corollary follows that the bulk of our military forces are required for service beyond the seas. I cannot help noticing that the declaration was made eighteen months ago, and that during the whole of last session it was not directly assailed in your Lordships' House. We have, roughly speaking, 600,000 men amongst the forces of the Crown; of that number 360,000, or sixty per cent. are earmarked for service at home in the defence of these shores; and I claim that it is an illogical position that when you admit that your Army is mainly required for service beyond the seas only forty per cent. of your forces should be earmarked for that purpose. There is another reason, I presume, for this change. It is a reason connected solely with the question of home defence. I refer to the growth of the Volunteers. In the centuries during which we looked to the Militia as the force earmarked for home defence the Volunteers did not exist. During the last fifty years the Volunteers have been created and have considerably increased, and it is our belief that we can look to them for that home defence for which, in old days, it was necessary to look to the Militia.

I would remind your Lordships of the position in which we invariably find ourselves with regard to the Militia in time of war. It is a notable fact that in the case of each of the three largest wars in which we have been engaged during the last hundred years we have had to call in the aid of the Militia. I do not think that can be better illustrated than in the language of the noble Earl opposite (the Earl of Wemyss) in a speech which he made last July. It is a long extract, but in view of the importance of the subject and the clearness with which the position was stated, perhaps I may be pardoned for reading it. The noble Earl said—

> "In 1803 15,000 Militia Volunteers joined the Army; in 1808 the local Militia was, in addition, established; 20,000 Militiamen volunteered then for the Army for twelve months. In 1812 three strong battalions joined the Army. During the ten years from 1803 to 1813 100,000 Militiamen passed into the Regular Army. In 1815 Militiamen in great numbers joined the Army and served at Waterloo. In 1854 we had the Crimean War, during which fifty battalions of Militia volunteered for service; ten were sent to the Mediterranean as garrison, thus freeing the Regular troops for service in the Crimea. In all, the Militia sent to the War in South Africa 1,691 officers and 43,875 men."

I think that passage absolutely establishes the fact that the Militia always have gone to war. We have always needed the Militia to go to the front in a big war.

THE EARL OF WEMYSS: And you have always had them.

*THE EARL OF DONOUGHMORE: Yes, and I hope we shall continue to have them. I believe they will always be willing and anxious to go to war, but they can only go to war by individual volunteering, and that is not a satisfactory state of affairs. In the first place, when you ask men on parade to volunteer in accordance with the formalities which you have to follow on such an occasion, there is always an unpleasant suspicion of pressure being brought on the men. I do not say whether it is justified or not, but that suspicion is always present, and I notice that in the evidence which he gave before the recent Royal Commission my noble friend Lord Raglan used the word "immoral" in this connection. There is also the fact that in trusting to this volunteering you are giving yourselves over to great uncertainty. The War Office has to prepare mobilisation schemes and the like, but in preparing those schemes they cannot look with certainty to the service of any single Militia unit or even man, and I am sure your Lordships will recognise that that is a great inconvenience in preparing for war. If the present position, therefore, is illogical, immoral, and inconvenient, I confess that I myself can see very little reason for maintaining it.

I believe the change proposed would be acceptable to the Militia. I have been very carefully through the evidence that was given on this subject before the Royal Commission, and I find that the question of the merits of such a proposal as this was put to eighteen witnesses, of whom four were opposed to the suggestion and fourteen in favour of it. I do not wish to minimise the importance of the evidence of the four who were not in favour of the proposal, but I cannot help feeling that the majority were in every way qualified to be consulted upon such a subject. The majority included such distinguished soldiers as the noble Viscount Lord Wolseley, who said that it would be a very desirable thing; and the noble Field Marshal Earl Roberts, who said that it would be very valuable, and added—

> "At present we are in the dark as to whether we can get them or not get them."

These fourteen witnesses included persons who, being Militia officers themselves, were thoroughly competent to speak. I notice the names of Lord Selborne, Lord Hardinge, Lord Raglan, and Lord Castletown, who have all by the part they have taken in debates in this House proved their right to speak with authority on this matter. Colonel Holden, who spoke on behalf of the Militia Rifle Association, was also included in the fourteen. As I have said, the right of all these gentlemen to speak on the subject is absolutely unquestioned, and I claim that their testimony must be allowed considerable authority with your Lordships in coming to a decision on this matter.

There is only one other important point in connection with this Bill to which I would like to allude. One of the greatest difficulties with which the Militia has to contend at the present moment is the difficulty of getting officers, and I am sanguine enough to believe that if your Lordships assent to this proposal that difficulty will be very greatly diminished. You will be offering a far more attractive career to a Militia officer than you have ever offered him before. You have asked him hitherto to do his preliminary drill, and spend a certain number of weeks every year in training his battalion, but the minute war comes, and war has hitherto in our experience invariably come outside this kingdom, you say—"Oh, no, your regiment is not earmarked to go abroad in time of war; you have to stay at home and defend this kingdom." And unless he is lucky enough to go out to the war for some special purpose he spends his time marching up and down Aldershot or Salisbury Plain, and not exactly in pursuits which one would think would convey ideal happiness to an English country gentleman. But under this Bill he will know that while he stays at home in time of peace he belongs to a force which is earmarked to go on service abroad in time of war. I believe that will be a much more acceptable position to him, and I shall be very disappointed if we do not have greater facility in getting officers after Parliament passes this Bill, as I sincerely hope it will.

Your Lordships will have noticed that there are certain very necessary safeguards in the Bill. We can only deal with the Militia under the Bill when they are embodied, and embodiment only takes place by Royal Proclamation in times of national emergency. No Militiaman raised by a compulsory process would be affected by this Bill. Therefore, we do not attack the noble Earl's pet lamb, the ballot, and the interests of present members are amply safeguarded. The Bill does not apply to the Imperial Yeomanry, because it is quite obvious that, while we require to retain some soldiers in this country, a proportion of the soldiers so retained must be mounted men. There are no mounted men among the Volunteers, and therefore we have to retain the Yeomanry for service in this country if they are required. The Yeomanry are a very satisfactory force, and I think your Lordships will see the wisdom of our not having included them under this Bill. Two Amendments have been given notice of this afternoon. There is, first, the Amendment of the noble Earl, Lord Wemyss, who meets us with a direct negative, and I do not flatter myself that anything I can say can overcome his Toryism in this matter; but I sincerely hope that the majority of your Lordships will not follow his lead. The noble Marquess opposite, the Marquess of Ripon, has also put an Amendment down asking for further information on a great many subjects before the Bill is proceeded with. That Motion has been on the Paper for a long time. The Estimates have been presented to Parliament since it was put down, and there has been a great deal of oratory in another place on the subject. I do not know whether the noble Marquess is satisfied by what he has heard and read on the subject or not, but at any rate I am glad he does not attack the principle of the Bill in his Amendment. I therefore sincerely hope I shall have his support as well as that of the majority of your Lordships if it is necessary to divide upon this Bill. I beg to move that the Bill be now read a second time.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª"—(*The Earl of Donoughmore.*)

*The Earl of WEMYSS: My Lords, I have listened with much interest and considerable curiosity to see on what grounds my noble friend who moved the Second Reading of this Bill would justify the revolution—for it is nothing short of that—in Militia service, which is proposed by His Majesty's Government. His arguments, however, did not touch the three points I propose to raise, and I can assure your Lordships I shall confine myself as much as possible to those three points and shall not enter into any general disquisition upon the admirable services that the Militia have always rendered in time of war in all parts of the world. Nor do I propose to cite authorities, extending over more than a century, who have favoured the Militia as it is. What you are now asked to do is to establish the Militia on a totally different footing. The points I wish to raise are these: that this is a revolution, that it is breaking up the foundation upon which our military system rests. There is not a man in this House, who knows anything of the subject, who will deny that it is upon the Militia that our existing military system is founded. If this Bill passes it will break up that foundation entirely.

It is desirable, when considering a question of its total change, to know exactly what the Militia is, and what the extent of the change will be. I turn to the latest edition of the Encyclopædia, and under the head of "Militia" I read as follows—

> "The Militia of the United Kingdom consists of a number of officers and men maintained for the purpose of augmenting the military strength of the country in case of imminent danger or great emergency. For such a contingency the whole or any part of the Militia is liable, by proclamation of the Sovereign, to be embodied; that is to say, to be placed on active service—"

I ask your Lordships to mark the words which follow—

> "within the confines of the United Kingdom. The officers and men when called out are liable for duty with the Regulars, and in all respects as Regular soldiers, within the United Kingdom."

If you want to know what this Bill does, I will tell you. It strikes out "within" and substitutes "without." This force which is raised for military service within the United Kingdom is capable of volunteering to serve outside the United Kingdom, but if this Bill passes it will be compelled to do so. I cannot conceive any greater change than that an old constitutional force, which has existed all this time for service within this country, and which, when embodied, might volunteer for foreign service, should be, at the will of the Government of the day, ordered to go across the seas to any part of the world. That is a great constitutional change which, I think, is highly objectionable.

Secondly, the Bill will put an end to the Militia ballot. The ballot is the foundation of the Militia; the Militia is supposed to be raised by ballot; but if this Bill passes there is an end of ballot for the Militia. If you happened to be in such a position that you had to raise Militiamen by ballot, is there anyone in your Lordships' House who will dare to stand up and say that you could compulsorily, under a ballot, send men to China, Peru, or Timbuctoo? You could not. So practically that power which my noble friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said was necessary for emergencies, and which he said, speaking on the subject some three years ago, was a power with which he would not readily part, is gone. I venture to think that if this Bill passes you will have done away with the power of compulsion for home service, and in doing that you do away with the old constitutional right of the Crown to call upon its subjects compulsorily for service in home defence.

My third point is the one on which my noble friend the Under-Secretary laid great stress—the uncertainty that at present prevails as to whether you have these Militiamen under hand or not. The blue-water question has never been debated in this House, though I hope to raise the question when my noble friend Lord Wolseley comes home. I object to the test of my noble friend the Under-Secretary. His test was one which will very soon disappear. He said the country now has the Volunteers, and therefore requires the Militia less for home defence, but you are doing your best to get rid of the Volunteers. I wish we had got rid of them. The great mistake of my life was being a Volunteer. And why? Because in consequence of the existence of the Volunteers those in authority have never done their duty by the State in enforcing the Militia ballot. Afraid of the voter—and the only principle that I can see in legislation now-a-days is to catch votes—they have not dared to enforce the ballot to fill the Militia, and the result is that the Militia is now, and always has been, something like 30,000 below its establishment; and I am inclined to think that when you pass this Bill, which enables the Government to send them to any part of the world, that diminution is likely to increase. My point is that the noble Earl's argument does not hold water. It does not hold water because you have not tried all the means available under the existing law to obtain a body of Militia at all times ready to go anywhere when wanted. You can do this under the existing law without upsetting the very foundation upon which your whole military system rests. I repeat that you can do this now under the existing Act.

Some thirty-five years ago I wrote a number of letters on the subject and was in communication with that most excellent Militiaman, Lord Abingdon, who was then Lord Norreys, and the question arose about the Militia Reserve. Lord Abingdon counselled the Government to make a list of regiments, whole units, who were ready to go anywhere, and to take note of those that so volunteered for duty. The feeling thirty-five years ago which Militiamen had, as expressed by Lord Norreys, was that the whole force would voluntarily ask to be put on that list in practically the position that this Bill tries to put them. That is the answer to my noble friend as regards the difficulty of getting hold of them. I say, at any rate, try it; try this plan. You can raise no possible objection to it. Try it before you dig up the foundations of our whole military system, as you are doing needlessly, as I hold, by this Bill. The Resolution standing in my name on the Paper is to move to resolve—

> "That, in the opinion of this House, it is contrary to sound policy to tamper with the Militia force and alter, as is intended, its conditions and terms of service."

I have been asked, instead of moving that Resolution as it stands, to move the rejection of this Bill. I do not care who votes with me. I simply enter my protest against this kind of legislation. But before I sit down I would say this to your Lordships, that the question at issue, putting on one side the opinion of the blue-water school, is one vital to this nation. I ask your Lordships to look upon it as not only vital to the nation, but as a question outside Party, and I hope that the patriotic feeling and independent spirit of noble Lords will induce them to vote with me against this Bill, which, as I have said, affects the time-honoured constitution and service of that valuable force, the Militia.

Amendment moved—

> "To leave out the word 'now,' and add at the end of the Motion the words 'this day six months.'"—(*The Earl of Wemyss.*)

*THE DUKE OF BEDFORD: My Lords, the Bill now before the House, if carried, goes a long way towards converting the Militia into the second line of the Army, a military policy which I have already advocated in your Lordships' House. I find that most Militia officers with whom I have discussed foreign-service enlistment are in favour of enlisting for foreign service and in the manner proposed by the Bill. I do not fear any falling off in the number of recruits owing to enlistment for foreign service, provided that the same kit, clothing, and equipment are given to the Militia recruit now to be enlisted for foreign service as to the Line recruit. I apprehend some loss to the force on the score of men not being willing to re-engage for foreign service. A re-engaged man is one who, after completing his first term of six years service, renews his engagement at once for a further period of six years. A man would be about twenty-five years old when he has to decide if he will re-engage for a further period of six years, which would take him to the other side of thirty, a period of life when a man may have many perfectly legitimate reasons for not incurring the liability for foreign service. The re-engaged man of twenty-five to thirty years old is a most valuable one in the force and quite at the best moment of his life for military service. If, as I anticipate, men do not re-engage freely for foreign service I suggest offering a bounty for re-engagement.

I cannot agree with the noble Earl who has just spoken that it is a mistake to alter the conditions of service in the Militia. The essential feature of the old Militia system was that it created an insular garrison, locally raised by the compulsion of the ballot, and, to a great extent, maintained by local as distinguished from Imperial taxation. But Mr. Pitt's policy (1798–1805) used the Militia as the recruiting ground for the Regular Army. It is interesting to note that at that time there were two systems of enlistment running in the Militia, the ballot for home defence and a supplementary Militia, raised by voluntary methods, from which men were encouraged to join the Regular Army and serve abroad. This supplementary Militia lasted for a very brief time. During the short interval of peace in 1802 the Militia Acts were consolidated into one general Militia Act of 1802. The ballot was then in operation, and men were not allowed to enlist from the Militia into the Regular Army, which was a return to the old principle of reserving the Militia for home defence. Under the ballot substitutes were allowed, with the result that the Militia became entirely composed of such substitutes, 23,000 men being substitutes out of 26,000. The system of substitutes, moreover, encouraged fraudulent enlistment, because it was a temptation to men to desert and become substitutes in as many different regiments as possible. It also discouraged enlistment for the Regular Army, since it paid men better to become substitutes for the Militia than recruits for the Regular Army.

For these reasons the Militia ballot was suspended, but only to be revived in 1807. The Government urgently needed 28,000 men for service abroad. Ordinary methods of recruiting failed. There was a choice between raising men by the ballot for the Regular Army direct or through the Militia. Lord Castlereagh preferred the latter course on the ground that it was the cheapest method, and that it provided the best class of recruit. Anyhow, the measure was completely successful; 27,000 men within twelve months joined the Regular Army after having been balloted into the Militia, and their places in the Militia were filled by 45,000 additional men. But at this moment, in addition to the ballot, the system of fines prevailed. Each parish had to furnish its *quota* of men for the Militia, and any parish making default was fined £60 for each man deficient. These conditions existed for only two years (1807–1809). Afterwards and throughout the rest of the war, men were to be raised for the Militia in the first instance by beat of drum, as volunteers, and secondly, if that failed, by ballot. But to what extent the ballot was resorted to between 1807 and 1815 cannot be ascertained. Anyhow, after 1815 the ballot was never put into operation, and at no time during the history of the Militia was a balloted man sent abroad, except as a volunteer. In 1813 there was a new condition of service in the Militia. By an Act of George III. the Militia was allowed to serve abroad as Militia, and under their own officers.

There were many changes in the Militia between 1852 and 1860, during the period of the Crimean War and the Indian Mutiny. The Militia was then made liable to serve anywhere in the United Kingdom, and in 1855 an Act, similar to the Act of George III. was passed encouraging Militia regiments up to three-fourths of their strength to volunteer for foreign service at specified places as Militia, and they did so serve. In our own day we have had the form of enlistment known as the Militia Reserve. The Militia Reserve was composed of men serving in the Militia, who, in consideration of an extra bounty of £1 a year, agreed to belong to the Reserve of the Regular Army for the purposes of foreign and active service. The original intention was that this Militia Reserve should be a force supplementary to the Militia, in the same sense as the supplementary Militia in the time of Mr. Pitt. But the real result was that the better men in each Militia battalion belonged to the Regular Army on mobilisation. The principle of this form of enlistment was unsound, in that it counted one man in two places, and trusted that he would not be required in two different places at the same time. This form of enlistment was abolished at the end of the South African War.

As regards altering the constitutional character of the Militia, that was very completely done in 1852, when the administration of the force was concentrated in the hands of the Secretary of State for War, with the result that recruiting for the Militia, which used formerly to be the duty of every class in the locality, from the Lord-Lieutenant downwards, is now a Departmental matter in which no one is concerned. I may add that in my experience I have never come across any military authority or any other authority who took the smallest interest in whether a Militia battalion was up to its establishment or very much the reverse. It must be remembered that until recent years the cost of the Militia was defrayed from local taxation, and the man who bore the local burden had a right to demand the local defence. But now that the burden is transferred to Imperial taxation, I submit that the Militia should be available for Imperial defence.

The instances which I have quoted show that at every crisis in the military history of this country the conditions of service in the Militia have been altered to suit the military requirements of the day, and the way in which in the past the Militia has never failed to respond to those alterations shows the great value of the force. The problems of Imperial defence have entirely changed in the course of the last few years. His Majesty's Government propose to use the Militia for the purposes of the defence of the Empire all the world over. That is a military policy in which I cordially concur, provided always that the Militia is properly equipped for foreign service. It is not so now. But in the belief that if this Bill becomes law the Militia will be equipped for the service for which it is destined, I support the Bill.

The Duke of Bedford.

*The Marquess of RIPON, who had given notice to move to resolve—

> "That this House does not deem it advisable to proceed with the consideration of this Bill until it has before it a full statement of the whole of the proposals of His Majesty's Government for the reorganisation of the Army."

said: My Lords, I gave notice some time ago of an Amendment to the Second Reading of this Bill, founded upon my belief that it was not advisable to deal with the reorganisation of our military system piecemeal, and that we ought to have, before we undertake that great and most important duty, a full explanation of the intentions of His Majesty's Government. But I find that the forms of the House will not allow me to move that Amendment if, as is, I suppose, probable, looking at the benches opposite, the Amendment of my noble friend Lord Wemyss is rejected. If that Amendment is rejected no other Amendment can be moved, and therefore I must ask your Lordships' indulgence if I make the observations which I desire to offer in respect to this Bill at this stage rather than at a later one.

I was not surprised that the noble Earl opposite minimised the effect of this measure as much as he could. I do not in the smallest degree blame the noble Earl. Nothing would be more natural in his position. But he tried to make out that the change proposed was, in fact, extremely small. Among other things, he told us, with perfect truth, that there had been many changes made in regard to the Militia in one form or another, and he described them as changes of principle. I cannot agree with the noble Earl in that. They were changes mostly of administration. The Militia rests upon the principle which has been explained so forcibly to your

Lordships by my noble friend Lord Wemyss—the principle that it is intended primarily for home defence. That is the principle of the Militia, and it has not been in the least degree impaired by any of the changes to which the noble Earl alluded. The noble Duke who has just sat down seemed to think that that change was made when the Militia was transferred from the superintendence of the Home Secretary to the Secretary of State for War. I cannot take that view. I remember those days very well, and I can assure the noble Duke that there was no idea at that time of making any constitutional change in regard to the Militia, but military questions of every kind were then being gradually and properly consolidated under the Secretary of State for War.

The Earl of WEMYSS: Volunteers also.

*The Marquess of RIPON: The Volunteers also. At any rate, the Militia was placed under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of State for War, but no alteration was made in the constitutional position of the Militia. My noble friend now sitting at the Table and myself carry back our recollections so far in regard to this question, that some of your Lordships may think that our views on this subject are old-fashioned. But I turn to the Report of the Duke of Norfolk's Commission, and what do I find stated there? That Commission thus describes the Militia—

> "The Militia exists chiefly, and the Volunteers solely, for the purpose of resisting a possible invasion of the United Kingdom."

That is to say, according to the Duke of Norfolk's Commission, the primary duty of the Militia is to be employed for home defence. Now, what this Bill proposes is entirely to change that primary condition. It proposes that instead of being primarily meant for home defence the Militia should become, as it was described in the speech made by the noble Earl opposite last February, a portion of the Reserve Army, and similar language has, I understand, been used elsewhere by the Secretary of State for War. Therefore, hereafter, if this Bill passes, you will remove the Militia from its present position as a valuable portion of our forces for home defence and join it entirely to the Regular Army, and whenever there is a strain of any kind render it liable for foreign service. That seems to me to be a question of extreme importance, and one upon which I am not prepared to give my final opinion until I know what are the other arrangements which His Majesty's Government are going to make for home defence.

This proposal is only the first of several schemes in respect to the Militia which have passed at least through the mind of the Secretary of State for War. The Secretary of State for War has contemplated—I do not know whether or not he contemplates it now, because his utterances within the last few days have seemed to me to be almost contradictory—taking from the Militia a large number of battalions and adding them to what he calls his territorial Army. He has contemplated putting an end to a considerable number of Militia regiments and taking other steps in respect to what may remain. Now, my Lords, before we take this first step in this direction we have a right to know whether His Majesty's Government do or do not intend to adopt the rest of the proposals of the Secretary of State for War with regard to the Militia. I am not by any means sure that His Majesty's Government have any such intention, for it is impossible to make out from a perusal of the remarks of the Secretary of State whether he is speaking for himself only. There is so much of the personal pronoun in the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman that it is extremely difficult to find out whether he speaks for himself or for His Majesty's Government. I hope before this debate is brought to a close we may have some clear and distinct statement from noble Lords on the Front Bench opposite as to how far they are prepared to endorse and adopt this system.

If you take the Militia from its present position and turn it into a Reserve for the Regular Army, I think you are bound to tell us what you are going to do to provide for the defence of this country at home. I know very well that opinion has greatly changed in the last fifty years in respect to the question of home defence. I am myself a humble disciple of the blue-water school, but I confess I am a little startled by some of the lengths to which persons are inclined to go now in respect to the immunity of this country from danger by raids. We have been told within the last few days that the naval view in respect to that question is that the crew of a dinghy could not land in this country in the face of the Navy. I have the greatest possible confidence in His Majesty's Navy. I have the greatest possible belief that they may may be relied upon to protect us from serious invasion; but I confess I cannot think that it would be safe for us to adopt the view that they can always prevent a boat's crew from landing in this country and that there is no danger to be provided against in the nature of raids of a grave and serious character. The author of the sentence I have quoted, strange as it may seem, is Mr. Arnold-Forster. He is the author of the "dinghy theory." I cannot swallow that theory. I may be a heretic among those who believe in the blue-water policy, but I cannot follow that. I believe much more in what I find stated in the Report of the Norfolk Commission. In that Report there is a very singular document, a document which had a very curious history. It was sent to the Commission from the office of the Director-General of Mobilisation and Intelligence as being forwarded with the authority of the Secretary of State. I know perfectly well that shortly afterwards the Commission were informed that the Defence Committee repudiated it and that it was not authoritative; but, as it contains the opinion of so important a person as the Director-General of Mobilisation and Intelligence, the document is entitled to considerable weight. He said—

> "It is held by some that the Government can guarantee complete protection of the United Kingdom against danger of invasion by any larger force than from 5,000 to 10,000 men."

That, I think, is the basis upon which you ought to frame your arrangements. My noble friend who spoke just now drew attention to the question of raids. I will not make any allusion to such a terrible catastrophe as a raid which might threaten our greatest seaports, Liverpool or Glasgow. But I ask your Lordships what would be the effect of an attack of 5,000 or 10,000 men on Yarmouth, Hull, Brighton, or Scarborough. You know what the effect would be; you know that it would create a panic in the land, and that a force so landed, if not immediately met, would do considerable damage. Therefore I say we ought not to take the first step in a direction which may land us in the adoption of a theory that no such raids are possible without having before us the fullest and clearest statement on the authority of the Government of their general proposals for home defence.

Now, what are the proposals which have been adumbrated by Mr. Arnold-Forster? The first is the raising of a large number of battalions belonging to the Regular Army on a two-years service. Part of those were intended to be taken from the Militia, but I should very much like to know what has become of those two-year battalions. I, myself, doubt very much whether they still exist except in the brain of the Secretary of State for War, and I seek for information from noble Lords as to what is their state. I am, I confess, one of those who think that recent experience has shown very plainly that you cannot run simultaneously in the Regular Army two different systems of enlistment, two different terms upon which men are to serve. What happened just recently in that unfortunate experiment of Mr. Brodrick's, which turned out to be such a total and almost disastrous failure? He thought he could enlist men for three years and get them to extend their service in the course of that period for a further term of nine years, but they would not do it. What was the consequence? You had to suspend short-service enlistment. Short-service enlistment is now suspended. From what I see in the newspapers, it is proposed that it shall be suspended for another seven or eight months at all events, and it is by no means certain that when that time comes it will be possible to revert to it. But what seems to me to be proved by this example is this, that if you have two different terms of enlistment men will love the one and hate the other. They will go to whichever they like best, and as they apparently do like short service much better than long service they will go to the short service, and you will be brought from time to time to the same position in respect to providing drafts for India and the Colonies in which you have found yourselves lately, and you will be obliged to again suspend your short-service enlistment, check the growth of your Reserve, and upset the new arrangement you are going to make.

I should be very glad to know whether it is intended to adopt this two-years system, and, if so, when it is going to be brought into operation. The noble Earl will probably say to me, "We are getting plenty of men now for the nine-years service." Yes, but during the last few months there has been, unfortunately, in this country a great deal of want of employment, and when you tell men that you will not let them come in on the short-service terms they, being forced to seek employment in the Army, take the longer service terms. But we hope and trust that that want of employment will pass away, and when the necessity of men entering the Army is less than it is now I venture to think you will find the dislike of long service more effective than it is at the present time. I confess, speaking for myself, that I am one of those who are very much inclined to think that you will have to return to a single system of enlistment, to single terms of enlistment for a shorter period than nine years. That, however, is an opinion, which I venture to express as being held by myself. You can rest assured that if I am right in my supposition of the difficulty of running two separate systems side by side you will have to come back to that single system of enlistment. If we are not to have the two-years service regiments, or if when we do get them we have again to suspend enlistment in them in order to force men into the nine-years service regiments, what becomes of the Reserve?

No man can have a higher opinion of the services of the Volunteers than I have. In the days when they were first started, and when my noble friend at the Table was most active, energetic, and vigorous in helping to raise that force, I was Under-Secretary of State for War and therefore I know a little about it. I venture to think that it is a very delicate thing to touch the terms upon which Volunteers are to serve. The upward limit of the demand in the way of training that can be made upon the Volunteers is very strictly confined. If you try to ask too much the force will gradually die out. It has always been thought a great advantage that the Volunteer force should be maintained at a very high figure. I think so still, but at the same time I do think that, if they are to be the sole force for home defence in this country, they will require the strengthening and the backing of a portion at least of the Regular Army, and that unless you can afford that to them you may find yourselvse in no inconsiderable difficulty if any raids of the description referred to should take place.

It seems to be very unfashionable at the present moment to think about the defence of these little islands. The thoughts of men now go to other and more distant parts of the world, but, I confess, I think our primary duty is to maintain the security of these islands upon the basis—and I quite admit the basis—that you must look to the Navy to prevent a serious invasion. But, my Lords, if you weaken the forces which you maintain at home you do run a risk of raids far exceeding the celebrated dinghy, and which would not merely injure the district which suffered from them, but would spread panic and dismay throughout the country.

There is one other point on which I should like to say a word. It seems to me that very little effort has been made to consider not merely what for purely military purposes you might most desire, but what upon a system of voluntary enlistment you are likely to get. I do not think that enough attention has been paid to the feelings of the classes who go into our military forces. Mr. Brodrick made a disastrous mistake. He tried to get men who wanted short service to take long service, and they would not. I am by no means convinced that the change which it is proposed to make now in regard to the Militia may not very seriously interfere with your recruiting for that force. I do not express a positive opinion on the subject; I am not competent to do so; but it does appear to me that there is a very great chance that the men on the one hand, and employers on the other, will not be inclined to forward recruiting for the Militia if there is an absolute obligation for them to go abroad.

We are told that very objectionable things take place occasionally in the present system of volunteering. I believe that is so. I have heard some very curious stories indeed on the subject, but I do not think that in order to remedy that it is necessary to revolutionise the Militia. I believe that if the military authorities take that matter in hand and see that the men are allowed their individual free choice, the thing can be done as an administrative matter without an Act of Parliament at all. I therefore venture to say that I do not think that this House or the other House of Parliament is in the position in which it ought to be to decide upon a question involving as much as this Bill involves. We have not the information. It is not in the Memorandum to which we can freely refer. It is not, I think, to be gathered from the statements made in another place, and, therefore, unless His Majesty's Government can give us a much fuller statement of the whole of their plan, unless they can tell us more than we know now, not merely of what are the aspirations of Mr. Arnold-Forster, but what are the intentions of His Majesty's Government, I for one shall find myself unable to give support to the Bill now before us. This is not a matter for piecemeal legislation. It is not a matter with which you can trifle. It is a matter of a very serious nature indeed. It is a matter very urgently requiring settlement. At present there is much uncertainty, doubt, and confusion in the minds both of the Militia and the Volunteers. The continuance of that doubt will destroy the Militia and the Volunteers, and it is therefore, I venture to say, essentially necessary that we should have the full confidence of His Majesty's Government, that they should tell us what they do mean, and the whole measure of Army reorganisation, before they ask us to take a partial and a limited step.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (The Marquess of LANSDOWNE): My Lords, the noble Marquess has challenged us so directly upon one or two points that I am compelled to intervene earlier in this debate than I had intended. I do not think that my noble friend's statement was open to the imputation of having minimised the importance of the measure before the House. Nor indeed, had he desired it, would it have been possible for him to do so, because there is no use disguising the fact that the measure is one of first-rate importance, altering as it does the primary conditions of the Militia service. We have made this great change for a reason which can be stated in a few words. We have done it because we believe that we do want a very large Army for service outside the limits of this country, and that we do not want to maintain within the country another very large Army available only to serve within the narrow confines of these islands.

The noble Marquess greatly misunderstood the so-called blue-water theory as unfolded by my right hon. colleague the Secretary of State for War. What my right hon. colleague said was that His Majesty's Government had come to the conclusion that the invasion in force of these islands was highly improbable or impracticable, and then he went on as an illustration to say that he believed the extreme naval view to be that even a dinghy could not safely effect a landing on these shores. But that is not by any means the account of my right hon. friend's statement which the noble Marquess gave to the House. My right hon. friend also explained that what he did think a danger to be provided for was the danger of a foreign raid of, say, 5,000 or 6,000 men. The noble Marquess expatiated with great eloquence upon the risk of so denuding the country of troops, particularly of Regular troops, that a raid of this kind might take place at the outset of war and create great panic and demoralisation in the country. But will the noble Marquess consider for a moment what our position at the outset of a war would probably be? We should have at home twenty-six or twenty-seven long-service Line battalions. We should also have the short-service battalions, because obviously no part of that large body of troops, could be sent out of the country at the very outset of war or until we had obtained control of the seas. Added to this would be the Militia and Volunteers. It seems to me, therefore, very far-fetched to suggest that we should be in any danger with that great body of troops at our disposal from a raid of 5,000 or 6,000 men.

But I readily admit that the so-called blue-water school is of comparatively recent origin. The theory under which I was brought up was certainly not the blue-water theory. I was educated to believe that a force of three Army Corps should be available for service outside the country, and that three other Army Corps should be evolved and organised out of the great mass of troops that remained for the defence of England and particularly of London, from an invasion in force. I have seen elaborate schemes in which positions were allotted to all the different units in order that such an invasion of this country might be held in check. Then, of course, it follows that it was our duty to organise, arm, and equip the whole of our Auxiliary Forces in order that they might be prepared for a great military operation of that kind. But there has been with regard to this question a great awakening of late — an awakening which has had its origin in two different sets of circumstances. It has resulted, in the first place, from the much more attentive study which these questions have received since the Defence Committee has been in working operation. Up to that time the great Departments of defence, the War Office and the Admiralty, were in the habit of corresponding, indeed, with one another; but I do not think I misrepresent them when I say that the views held in those two Departments were not always so collated as to enable us to arrive at a true appreciation of the facts. The thorough investigation which those great strategic problems have received at the hands of the Defence Committee has been one cause which has led to this fundamental change in our conceptions.

The other cause, also a most important one, is to be found in the financial exigencies of the case. We have all, I think, come to see that the constant growth of our naval and military expenditure has become a serious menace to the financial stability of this country, and we have had to consider in what direction it was possible to arrest the progress of that colossal expenditure. I believe your Lordships will all agree that the pruning knife cannot be applied to our naval expenditure. Those of us who had the good fortune to listen the other day to Lord Selborne's eloquent speech delivered from this bench will realise that this is not a time when we could contemplate any diminution in the naval preparations which it is our duty to make. Nor is it conceivable that at this moment we should desire to diminish the number of men who would be available, if this country were at war, for active operations in India or in the Colonies or other parts of the world. Therefore, it seems to me to follow that, if there is to be retrenchment at any point, if there is to be an arrestation of the progress of expenditure, that arrestation must take place in connection with that part of the Army which is useful for home defence only. We have, then, to consider from that point of view what is the proper place of the Militia; and I am glad to believe that in the opinion of most of us the proper function of the Militia is that it should form a part of that Army which in time of peace remains at home, but which in times of national emergency shall be available for use in the field beyond the limits of these islands.

I have no doubt that if my right hon. colleague had had a clean slate to work upon he would have been justified in doing what I believe in his original proposal he desired to recommend to Parliament, and that he would have preferred that the Militia should be merged in that short-service Army of which we have spoken in these debates. But sentiment counts for a great deal in these questions, and it became obvious that a measure of that kind would have done great violence to the sentiment of a force which we greatly honour and which commands the esteem of the country. Therefore we propose that the Militia should retain its identity, and that it should not be merged in the short-service Army, but that, on the other hand, it should be so trained, so equipped, and so officered that it should be fit when occasion arises to take its place alongside the best troops of the Line for the purpose of foreign service.

The noble Marquess expressed his objection to accepting these proposals with regard to the Militia until we had disclosed more fully the whole of our scheme of Army reform. We have made no mystery of the broad outlines of that scheme. They were explained last year by the Secretary of State; they have been set forth again in the Memorandum on the Army Estimates, and they have been more fully gone into in the House of Commons within the last two or three days. I thought it was well understood that our proposals were based upon the creation of a long-service Army recruited for a term of nine years with the colours and three with the Reserve, liable at all times for service abroad, and, on the other hand, a short-service Army with a period of two years with the colours and six years with the Reserve, available for service abroad only in time of emergency. That is the broad basis of the new scheme. But the noble Marquess says, "Where are these short-service battalions? They do not exist. When are they going to exist?" That is a legitimate question. The noble Marquess, however, I think, answered it himself in the course of his speech, because he dwelt on the failure of Mr. Brodrick's scheme of three-years enlistment to provide a sufficient number of men for the Indian drafts. That is quite true. We found we could not reckon on a sufficient number of men for the drafts for the battalions abroad; and consequently, in order to obtain those men, we had to shut the door to short-service recruiting and to accept for a time, but a time only, nothing but men recruited for long service. It has, however, been stated distinctly by my right hon. colleague that when a sufficient number of long-service men have been recruited—and I may say that long-service recruiting has proceeded in a most satisfactory manner, I am told that we have got 10,600 men—we shall certainly resort to short-service recruiting and to short-service battalions of the kind described by my right hon. colleague. There is to my mind one reason why it is obvious that we must resort to short-service recruiting, because it is only by means of such recruiting that you are able to build up what I shall always maintain is the thing which is of all others needful for our Army—a great and numerous Reserve.

I must say one word with regard to two of the criticisms made upon the Bill by the Earl of Wemyss. I understood him to suggest that it would be possible to obtain all we require by inviting Militia battalions to volunteer beforehand for service abroad, that is, by taking men as now for service at home, but afterwards allowing the battalions to volunteer for liability to serve abroad. I am bound to say that to my mind all these arrangements under which men are taken into the Army upon one set of terms, and then invited, whether as individuals or collectively, to accept a wholly different liability, are fundamentally bad and wrong. I am within the recollection of the House when I say that during the South African War, much as we rejoiced at the magnificent way in which the Militia came forward to help us in that great emergency, most of us had an uneasy feeling that the procedure by which Militia battalions were induced to volunteer was not one which we could regard altogether with satisfaction or contentment. The only other observation I will make in reply to my noble friend Lord Wemyss is this. He dwelt with sorrow upon the effect which this measure will have in depriving the country of a last chance of having recourse to the Militia ballot. My Lords, that point has been carefully considered by our legal advisers, and we are assured that, even if this Bill is passed, it would be possible, supposing that we desired it, to form a territorial Militia by means of the application of the ballot. Whether, considering the feeling with regard to home service, and the dislike that there now is to collecting large numbers of men with a liability limited to service in this country, that is ever likely to come I do not take upon myself to say.

My Lords, I have only to add that we associate ourselves with my right hon. colleague in the proposals which he has made to Parliament. They seem to us to be the best of which the circumstances admit; and they certainly fulfil, to my mind, the conditions which are indispensable and which I would describe as follows—that we should avoid the use of compulsion; that we should maintain a strong Regular Army for service abroad; that we should endeavour to build up a large Reserve; and that we should, if we cannot diminish our expenditure, at any rate avoid an increase in the Army Estimates.

*VISCOUNT HAMPDEN: My Lords, I have listened with great interest to the speech of the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, as I did to the speech of the noble Earl who introduced this Bill, and I think the House will be in agreement with me when I say that we do not know even now what is the view of His Majesty's Government upon the scheme which has been defined by the Secretary of State for War. There are two or three Questions one would be inclined to ask. One is, is the long-service system to be permanent or only temporary? Again, is the infantry of the Line to continue to be divided into two separate Armies with different terms of enlistment and pay? I have put a notice on the Paper with a view to obtaining some information upon the effect of Mr. Arnold-Forster's proposal, but it seems to me that the whole scheme of the right hon. Gentleman depends upon the success of the long-service system. I have asked for a Return of the ages of the men who have been enlisted under the long-service system. I believe I am to have that Return from the War Office. I have asked for it for this reason. It is clearly obvious that if we are obtaining the same class of men now under the long-service enlistment as we obtained under the Cardwell system, then the effect of reducing the period of Reserve service from five years to three years will be to diminish by many thousands the Army Reserve without giving the country any counterbalancing advantages whatever. That is perfectly clear on the face of it.

The most extraordinary point about the whole of Mr. Arnold-Forster's ideas is that he takes credit that his scheme will increase the Reserve of the Army. If there is one thing it will not do that is the thing. Take, for instance, your nine-years service men. I suppose they will have to serve six or seven years in a hot climate like India; they will come back to this country utterly unfit to compete in the labour market. They will be wrecked in health, and more fitted really for a pension than for fighting. I understand that the Militia are not to be absorbed. Therefore, the two-years service men will be the men drafted into the Reserve. These men will have had two years service. In what way will they compare with men who have had from six to eight years service under the Cardwell system? I appeal to the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, who made a speech last year in this House in which he gave his opinion upon the effect of the Cardwell system on the Reserve of the Army, and it was a convincing statement. I think it is so strong that, with the leave of the House, I will quote an extract from it. The noble Marquess said—

> "I shall continue to believe that the arrangement under which the home battalions acted as what I may call feeders to the foreign battalions, and in their turn when fortified by the addition of Reservists became fighting units, was a very good system, and certainly at the outbreak of the South African War it enabled us to put in the field a larger and more efficient force than ever before left these shores."

My noble friend went on to say he had reason to admit that another system was necessary because our foreign requirements had grown so much heavier; we had to keep such a large Army in India and the other garrisons that we could not get a sufficient number of men in the linked battalions at home to feed them. I am afraid my noble friend cannot have examined the scheme of Mr. Arnold-Forster, because, from what I gather from his scheme as defined last year, he will maintain ninety-six battalions at home as against eighty-eight abroad, or more than we would have to maintain under the Cardwell system if we had as many battalions at home as abroad. I have come to the conclusion that it is very difficult indeed to extract from the Government their policy upon this Army scheme, and incidentally, I might say, upon other matters. We have at this moment no idea what the scheme really is in its entirety, and I think it is hardly courteous to the House of Lords that we should be asked to deal with a Bill which is really part of a larger scheme without full knowledge of that scheme. Neither the noble Marquess the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs nor the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War has informed the House what are the views of His Majesty's Government on that scheme as a whole.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: Certainly we have.

*Viscount HAMPDEN: I did not gather so. Mr. Arnold-Forster in the House of Commons certainly did not inform us. I read his speech through very carefully, but failed to find out what part of his scheme was assented to by His Majesty's Government. We have had schemes of reform before. We had a scheme associated with the name of Mr. Brodrick. I remember some few years ago venturing to say in this House that Mr. Brodrick might call his Army Corps by whatever name he liked, but he would never obtain them, and that prophecy, at any rate, seems to have come true. The Army now has another master, and Mr. Arnold-Forster, who was the severest critic of the Army in the House of Commons, has become a constructor, and we have a right to ask what form of building Mr. Arnold-Forster is constructing or has constructed. There is one thing clear, however, and it is that Mr. Arnold-Forster proposes to abolish the Cardwell system and to put something else in its place. Therefore, it seems to me desirable that we should for a few moments examine the Cardwell system and compare it with Mr. Arnold-Forster's proposals.

But there is the preliminary question as to what our military responsibilities are. They have, of course, been immensely increased by recent policy and events, and I suppose that a great portion of the £12,000,000 addition to the Army Estimates may be attributed to the trouble in South Africa and the necessity of maintaining a garrison there. But the military responsibilities as far as regards foreign service are perfectly clear. We must maintain our garrisons, and we must have two Army Corps at least to reinforce India if necessary. With regard to home defence, that is another thing. Is invasion possible? We have had that argued to-night. It is perfectly clear that there is no room for economy with regard to the Regular Army, and I should have thought, with a sufficient number of troops abroad and the same number at home, so far as linked battalions are concerned, Mr. Arnold-Forster would have been better advised in seeking economy by making large reductions in the Auxiliary Forces. That would have been better than this system which reduces the Regular Army, destroys its efficiency, and depletes its Reserve. The Cardwell system was the best piece of work that has been done for the Army in this generation. If that system had only been given a fair chance it would not have partially failed, and it has only partially failed because that condition vital to it, of keeping the same number of linked battalions at home as abroad has never been fulfilled.

The Cardwell system provided us with adequate drafts for India and the Colonies. It provided us with seasoned men for the Reserve, and gave us such a fighting force as we had in South Africa. As a matter of fact, we were enabled, under the Cardwell system, to send the equivalent of five Army corps to South Africa. Now I ask, is it not the height of unreason, or rather the depth of folly, to abolish a system such as that, which has only failed partially, such partial failure as has occurred, moreover, being due solely to the mismanagement of succeeding Governments? We may say with truth that the Cardwell system has been sacrificed to a false principle of economy. Now we come to the point when Mr. Brodrick gave up office. Of course, the difficulty with regard to drafts was increased by the South African War. We had to maintain a garrison in South Africa, and there were a large number of overdue discharges from the Reserve. Mr. Brodrick attempted to remedy that by a plunge into a universal short-service system. The men refused to re-engage, and the result was that the scheme cost the country £2,000,000. I admit that it was a very difficult position in which Mr. Arnold-Forster found himself at the War Office, but I should have thought that what he ought to have done was to take temporary measures to fill up the drafts for India, and then have had a Departmental inquiry into the working of the Cardwell system, focussing, as it were, professional opinion on its merits. But he did nothing of the kind. He rushed in, really, where even Mr. Brodrick had feared to tread, and proceeded at once to abolish the Cardwell system and put in its stead a scheme which I think for futility establishes a perfect record.

I have not yet found any agreement as to the exact nature of the scheme that he proposed, but taking his speeches last year I concluded that his scheme consisted first of all of dividing the infantry of the Line into two separate Armies—a general-service Army and a home-service Army. The terms of the general-service Army were to be nine years with the colours and three with the Reserve, and those of the home-service Army two years with the colours and six with the Reserve. Of those 183 battalions, ninety-five were to be at home, and eighty-eight abroad, and, as I understand it, this Bill becomes necessary because, in framing the home-service Army, so many battalions of infantry are disbanded, and in their stead is placed so many battalions of Militia. There seem to me to be some fatal objections to that course. I ask the Government first of all how they propose to officer the home-service Army. That Army is to have less pay—that was stated last year by Mr. Arnold-Forster—and will be serving alone at home except on the exhaustion of the general-service Army. Will any young man who wants to take a commission join the home-service Army? He will certainly not do so unless he fails to enter the foreign-service Army. Again, how are you going to enlist 15,000 recruits a year for the general-service Army? The noble Lord says recruits are coming in well, but we have not heard the ages or the condition of those recruits. I believe in time there will be a very serious deficiency in the number enlisted in the general-service regiments.

Look at the scheme as it compares with the Cardwell scheme in respect of the soldiers who will really compose the battalions at home. We had experience of what our Reservists were like in the South African War, and yet Mr. Arnold-Forster will upset the whole of that and form a body for foreign service composed of men having had only two years service with the colours. They can hardly, I think, be called anything else than an army of boys. I hope His Majesty's Government will pause before they enter on such a scheme as this. If you were to take temporary measures to fill up the drafts, and revert to the Cardwell scheme for the provision of drafts as a permanent measure, I believe you would solve the difficulty. If it is said that that is too expensive, I reply that it is better to spend money on perfecting the organisation of the home Army, making what economies you can in your Auxiliary Forces, than to establish a scheme which will be so highly injurious to the interests of the Army at large.

*Lord RAGLAN: My Lords, this is a subject which I have had very much at heart, and I shall, therefore, venture to trouble your Lordships with a few words upon it. The remarkable feature of this debate has been that only one of the three noble Lords who oppose the Bill said anything whatever about the subject of the Bill. The noble Marquess on the Front Bench opposite (the Marquess of Ripon) said very little about the Militia at all. The noble Viscount who has just sat down hardly mentioned the Militia, and, therefore, I am afraid their speeches have not carried us very much further. Both the noble Earl who proposed the rejection of the Bill and the noble Marquess on the Front Bench opposite started on the assumption that the liabilities of the Militia were fixed and firm like the laws of the Medes and Persians, that they always had been so, and were to remain so. I think I can in a few words show your Lordships that there have been many great and important changes in the constitution and liabilities of the Militia since that force was first founded.

It is usual to begin the history of the Militia from the time of Alfred the Great, but I shall not go back so many centuries as that, but will commence with the time when the noble Earl's great pet, the Militia ballot, was first introduced, in 1757. I might say here that at that time there was every reason why the Militia should be confined to home service. Your Lordships will remember that a few years before that period, during the absence abroad of almost the whole of the Regular Army, the army of Prince Charles Edward had penetrated as far as Derby, and thrown the country into tremendous panic. It was chiefly that that caused the country to look again to its armour, and for some years after the question of the resuscitation of the Militia was discussed. The consequence was that, when in 1757 the Militia was reorganised on the principles of the ballot, the greatest care was taken to keep the Militia separate from the Regular Army. There was this reason for that, that when a regiment went abroad it was practically sentenced to death, and you could hardly conscript respectable men into the Militia and proceed to sentence them to death, which was the result then of sending them abroad. That sort of idea went on until the end of the eighteenth century, when we were hard pushed on land, and in 1798 an Act was passed enabling the Militia to volunteer into the Army. That was quite as great a change as any which is now proposed by the Bill submitted by His Majesty's Government.

Then there was the Interchange Act of 1811, which permitted the British Militia to serve in Ireland, and the Irish Militia to serve in Great Britain; and, finally, there was the Act of 1813, which permitted the Militia to volunteer for foreign service. So that on at least two occasions the entire object and constitution of the Militia have been radically changed by Act of Parliament. As the noble Marquess the Foreign Minister pointed out, there is no reason why you should not enforce the ballot after this Bill has been passed into law. And, moreover, behind the Regular Militia there is the local Militia, which is confined to service at home. There are two ways in which the proposals of His Majesty's Government can be looked at—how they affect the Militiamen and how they affect the military defence of the country. There is no doubt whatever that the present arrangements have been pre-eminently unsatisfactory. I have always thought that the fact that we have gone on enlisting men for home service, telling them that they would only be employed at home, while at the same time at the back of our minds we intended they should do something quite different, was immoral and wrong. It was, indeed, only one of the shams which from time immemorial have characterised all official dealings with our military forces.

As to the effect of the proposals in this Bill on the Militiaman, I have committed myself before in this House to the statement that I do not believe it will make the slightest difference in recruiting. I do not believe you will lose one recruit by the introduction of this Bill, but I think it is quite possible, as my noble friend the noble Duke behind me (the Duke of Bedford) said, that it may to a certain extent check re-engaging. I do not, however, think that is probable because, unfortunately, re-engagements are now very few; but if His Majesty's Government would think over the question of making some provision for a bounty for re-engaged men—it need not be a large bounty, 10s. or £1 would do a great deal in that direction—it would enable the Militia force to retain one of its most valued constituents, namely the Militiamen who have served for some time in the regiment, and from which class our non-commissioned officers are obtained.

I now come to the question of how the officers will be affected. I cannot help thinking that this Bill will put the officer in a far better position. We shall know exactly where we are. As things stand at present we do not know where we are. In the late war a great number of officers were put in a most unfair position. They did not like their regiments going on active service without them. In a great number of cases they were married men with families, and they were torn in two as to where their duty lay. I believe that if it was frankly stated to them that they were under this liability if ordered abroad they would go cheerfully. I know, so far as I myself am concerned, that it would lift a very great weight off my shoulders. With regard to the opinion of the Militia on this point, I may state that as long ago as 1896 the noble Earl, Lord Selborne, who I regret is not in his place to-day, and myself sent a circular letter to every commanding officer in Great Britain and Ireland asking him his opinion on certain matters in regard to the Militia, and amongst other questions we asked—

> "Are you in favour of enlisting the whole of the Militia for general service in case of war?"

Some 112 commanding officers answered our letter. Of those eighty-seven were in favour of enlisting the Militia for general service and only fourteen against. The others did not answer the question or were doubtful. I think that is very strong proof of how, even in those days, the Militia viewed this proposal. The noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War has alluded to the evidence taken before the Duke of Norfolk's Commission, and I wish I had time to go into the evidence given on behalf of the Militia Recruiting Association. There, again, the opinions of commanding officers of Militia were collected, and an overwhelming number of commanding officers were in favour of this change. Therefore, I think, as far as the force itself is concerned, they are almost entirely in favour of the change proposed.

With regard to the men, people are very apt to argue as if men in this country had a dread of foreign service. Perhaps I speak from a rather different point of view from many others, for my men consist chiefly of industrial labourers and artisans. The proportion of those men who have been out of England is enormous. They have no dread whatever of going out of this country, and it is absurd to say that amongst the working classes there is any objection to going on foreign service or of moving about the world. As to the question of married men, my own experience is that the number of married men is very small indeed. In my regiment the men are considerably above the average age, yet out of considerably over 800 men only forty-three are married. The proportion of married men in the Militia is not at all large. One word with regard to employers of labour. The noble Marquess said he was afraid employers of labour would object to this proposal. If I thought that argument affected the matter one way or the other I should be inclined to pause, but as I do not think employers of labour give the slightest assistance, but in a great number of cases throw great obstacles in the way of recruiting for the Militia, I do not think the adverse opinion of employers of labour should affect the question the least bit one way or the other.

As to the advantages to the country, it seems hardly necessary to say that a scheme which gives the country 90,000 more disposable men must be of great advantage to it. It seems to me that the danger of the present system of keeping a large number of men for an emergency which most people believe will never occur, is that those redundant units are apt to be lopped off in moments of economy, and that danger far outweighs any danger which may arise from altering the conditions of service of the Militia. During the South African War a very large proportion of Militia units did volunteer, all honour to them, but at the same time your Lordships must not forget that a certain number of Militia units did not volunteer. Your Lordships can easily understand that it requires very little to turn men one way or the other. An unpopular colonel, an unpopular adjutant, an unpopular sergeant-major, a speech by somebody, or a paragraph in a newspaper, may turn men from one way to the other. I do not think that any military system is fit to be called by that name which depends on conditions so uncertain as those. If your Lordships pass the Bill, and if His Majesty's Government carry out in their entirety the promises made by the noble Marquess with regard to the equipment and training of the Militia, the country will, at practically the smallest cost, receive a vast addition to its Regular Forces prepared for service in any part of the world.

*LORD SALTOUN: My Lords, I wish to ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War one Question about recruiting for the Militia and the Army. It is well-known to your Lordships that at the present time non-commissioned officers who recruit for the Militia get a certain advantage from that; and very frequently, when the recruit has been a short time drilling in the Militia, induce him to go on to the Regular Army, for which they get another bounty. In that way the single recruit is in a dual position. Under this new scheme, which I am quite certain will be for the benefit of the Militia and will be greatly appreciated by both officers and men of that force, I think there ought to be some arrangement by which dual recruiting should be stopped. If a man enlists in the Militia he should be kept for the Militia, and if for the Army he should be kept for the Army.

EARL SPENCER: My Lords, the debate to-night has been very interesting and, expressing as it does the opinions held by so many who are connected with the Militia, must be of considerable value. The noble Lord who spoke last but one said that many of the speakers had hardly mentioned the word Militia. I do not think that reproach is justified. It certainly cannot be made in the case of the speech of my noble friend Lord Ripon, nor of that of the noble Earl who moved the Amendment. This Bill deals solely with the question of enlisting the Militia for foreign service in the event of war. We are always hearing accounts of the state of the Militia, and of the necessity of reforming that force and putting it in a more satisfactory condition. I venture to say there is no provision in this Bill which has that object. There is a great deal to be said in favour of doing something to put the Militia on a more satisfactory footing. I think most people will agree that the Militia in the past has been greatly neglected, and in consequence of neglect and also mismanagement the force has fallen a great deal from the position it held many years ago. On January 1st, 1904, there were 32,601 men wanting to complete the establishment; on January 1st, 1902, there were 21,148 wanting. That shows that there is still a great wastage and that the ranks of the Militia are not filling up as they should.

I hold very strongly that the course that has been followed so much of late years of always having the Militia trained in camps away from their headquarters has had a very bad effect indeed on training and on enlistment. I can speak for my own regiment which, last year, for the first time in five years, were trained in the county town. I am glad they are to be trained in the county again. This Bill, however, does nothing to improve the officers or secure better officers. What it does is to remove a practice which the noble Lord opposite, Lord Raglan, calls immoral, connected with the inducements to the Militia to volunteer for foreign service. The Bill no doubt, remedies that, and it has, I admit, attractions to many people in that it is more straightforward in that respect than the present system. But I maintain with others who have spoken to-night that the Bill introduces a fundamental change; and a far greater change than any of those which have been referred to, in the constitution of the Militia. The noble Duke opposite, who always speaks with such authority, and to whom the House listens with deep interest, said that as great a change was made when the Militia were taken out of the hands of the Lords-Lieutenant of counties and put entirely under the Secretary of State for War. That change was, no doubt, an important one, but it was justified by the requirements of the day, and was nothing like so fundamental a change as the present proposal. No doubt this change will do away with the undue pressure that is sometimes put on Militiamen to enlist for foreign sevice; but surely that can be remedied by any determined colonel or by the district general, or even by the War Office itself, and it is not necessary to make so great and fundamental a change to effect that.

The noble Marquess opposite, who lately was Secretary of State for War, twitted my noble friend near me as to his views with regard to the blue-water school, but when the noble Marquess had explained his view it seemed to me to be almost identical with that of my noble friend. The noble Marquess told the House one thing that we were glad to hear, and that was that the proposal of the Secretary of State to merge certain Militia regiments in the short-service Army had been given up. That is, no doubt, an important statement, but when the noble Marquess describes what the whole policy of the Government is, I confess I think it comes to very little. The noble Marquess says we want long service abroad and short service at home but we know that now short service at home is destroyed—at all events it has been suspended for a time owing to the impossibility of getting the men to enlist for short and long service at the same time. I cannot help thinking that the argument is a sound one that, though after a time all the regiments for long service may be filled up, the same difficulty will again arise if you enter on short service alongside the other. I cannot see how that part of the scheme can stand, and it seems to me a very serious drawback to the whole scheme, because for the moment it destroys the power of getting Reserve men, which is such an essential consideration.

I will not go at length into the whole subject, but I would like to know what is to be done with regard to the Volunteer force, a force to which many of us attach enormous importance. We believe that very often in the Army and elsewhere sufficient weight is not given to the excellent quality of the men in the Volunteer force. We get in that force, just as we do in the Yeomanry, a much higher class of men, more intelligent and more able to do splendid work in the field. I cannot share the views of my noble friend with whom I worked in the formation of the Volunteers, that in so doing we made the greatest mistake of our lives; it is one of the proudest things I have to look back upon in my public life that I have done my utmost to assist in the formation of the Volunteer force. The scheme put forward by the noble Marquess does not seem anything like so complete as that set forth in the speech of the Secretary of State last year. We do not know how much of that scheme will come forward again, and, therefore, I am not inclined at the present moment, for the very small gain obtained by enabling Militiamen to enlist for foreign service, to support this proposal without having before me the complete scheme of the Government. Therefore, if my noble friend goes to a division I shall feel it my duty to support him.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: My Lords, I do not intend to detain the House at any length in replying upon the very interesting debate that has taken place. I would first deal with the criticism made by the noble Earl who has just sat down, in which he complains that there is nothing in this Bill to improve the Militia. It is my belief, and that belief has been supported by noble Lords who are Militia officers, that one of the effects of this Bill will be to make it easier to get officers for the Militia; and, beyond that, how would the noble Earl expect us to improve the Militia by Act of Parliament? The way we hope to improve the Militia is through the Army Estimates. It is quite unnecessary for us to bring in a Bill to carry out these improvements.

Earl SPENCER: That would justify us in voting against the Second Reading of the Bill.

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: Not at all. The noble Earl stated that my right hon. friend the Secretary of State suggested originally that the Militia should be merged in the home-service Army and that that had now been dropped. That has not been dropped, because it has never been put forward.

Earl SPENCER: It was proposed that certain Militia regiments should be merged in the short-service home Army.

The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: They were to be invited to join the short-service Army if they wished to. My right hon. friend made it clear that he would have preferred to see the whole of the Militia merged in the short-service Army, but that he recognised public opinion was not in favour of such a change, and, therefore, he did not definitely put it forward. The noble Viscount opposite has complained that he was still in the dark as to whether the other members of His Majesty's Government supported the scheme of my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War. It is curious that he should have made that complaint within a few minutes of the noble Marquess the Secretary for Foreign Affairs stating that his colleagues associated themselves with the scheme.

Viscount HAMPDEN: What scheme?

*The Earl of DONOUGHMORE: The scheme so minutely outlined by the noble Viscount himself in the course of his speech. The noble Viscount complained that he does not understand the scheme. I think he understands it well, for he gave it to us very succinctly and clearly. With regard to the other point he raised, that the scheme will not increase the Reserve of the Army, I would refer him to a Return which we presented to Parliament last year. It was moved for in another place by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, and he will see from it that the Reserve under the proposed system would be larger than under the present system. I can assure Lord Saltoun that the question of enlistment is one which will not be lost sight of in working out the details. In reply to the noble Earl opposite, I would remind him that our policy is to reduce the Volunteers in numbers and apply the saving to improving their efficiency. I trust your Lordships will give this Bill a Second Reading.

On Question, "That the word proposed to be left out stand part of the Question," their Lordships divided :—Contents, 69; Not Contents, 21.

CONTENTS.

Halsbury, E. (*L. Chancellor.*)
Vane, E. (*M. Londonderry.*)
(*L. President.*)
Salisbury, M. (*L. Privy Seal.*)

Bedford, D.
Marlborough, D.
Richmond and Gordon, D.

Bath, M.
Lansdowne, M.
Winchester, M.

Clarendon, E. (*L. Chamberlain*)
Bathurst, E.
Brownlow, E.
Camperdown, E.
Cawdor, E.
Denbigh, E.
Devon, E.
Drogheda, E.
Ducie, E.
Fitzwilliam, E.
Hardwicke, E.
Lathom, E.
Lucan, E.

Northesk, E.
Onslow, E.
Stanhope, E.
Verulam, E.
Waldegrave, E. [*Teller.*]
Westmeath, E.

Churchill, V. [*Teller.*]
Colville of Culross, V.
Falkland, V.
Hardinge, V.
Hill, V.
Hutchinson, V. (*E. Donoughmore.*)

Abinger, L.
Allerton, L.
Barrymore, L.
Brodrick, L. (*V. Midleton.*)
Colchester, L.
De Mauley, L.
Dunboyne, L.
Ellenborough, L.
Hothfield, L.
Hylton, L.
Kenyon, L.

Kilmarnock, L. (*E. Erroll.*)
Lawrence, L.
Ludlow, L.
Manners, L.
Manners of Haddon, L.
(*M. Granby.*)
Meldrum, L. (*M. Huntly.*)
Methuen, L.
Mostyn, L.
Muncaster, L.
Napier, L.
Oranmore and Browne, L.
Raglan, L.
Ravensworth, L.
Robertson, L.
Romilly, L.
Rossmore, L.
Rothschild, L.
Saltoun, L.
Shute, L. (*V. Barrington.*)
Silchester, L. (*E. Longford.*)
Sinclair, L.
Suffield, L.
Windsor, L.
Zouche of Haryngworth, L.

NOT-CONTENTS.

Northampton, M.
Ripon, M.

Buckinghamshire, E.
Carrington, E.
Chesterfield, E.
Portsmouth, E.
Spencer, E.
Temple, E.

Hampden V.

Davey, L.
Denman, L.
Monkswell, L.
Monson, L.
O'Hagan, L.
Reay, L.

Saye and Sele, L.
Shuttleworth, L.
Stanley of Alderley, L.
Stanmore, L.
Stewart of Garlies, L.
(*E. Galloway.*) [*Teller.*]
Wemyss, L. (*E. Wemyss.*)
[*Teller.*]

Bill read 2^{a} accordingly, and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Monday next.

PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION BILL [H.L.].

Read 3^{a} (according to order); an Amendment (Privilege) made; Bill passed, and sent to the Commons.

MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT (1882) AMENDMENT BILL [H.L.]; PRIZE COURTS BILL [H.L.]; NAVAL PRIZE BILL [H.L.]

Read 3^{a} (according to order), and passed, and sent to the Commons.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

Brought from the Commons and read 1ª; then (Standing Order No. xxxix having been suspended) Bill read 2ª; Committee negatived; Bill read 3ª, and passed.

House adjourned during pleasure.

House resumed.

The following Bill received the Royal Assent—Consolidation Fund (No. 1).

LEEDS CORPORATION (CONSOLIDATION) BILL.

Returned from the Commons, with the Amendments agreed to.

House adjourned at Five minutes before Twelve o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 30th March, 1905.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Leeds Corporation (Consolidation) Bill. Lords Amendments considered, and agreed to.

Southampton and Winchester Great Western Junction Railway (Abandonment) Bill. Read the third time, and passed.

South Metropolitan Gas Bill. Read the third time, and passed. [New Title.]

South Suburban Gas Bill. As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Accrington Corporation Bill (by Order); Accrington District Gas and Water Board Bill (by Order). As amended, considered; to be read the third time.

Malvern Water Bill. "To confirm and legalise the construction of certain waterworks constructed by the Urban District Council of Malvern for the supply of Water to their district; to authorise the Council to construct additional waterworks for the supply thereof; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Birmingham Corporation Bill; Brentwood Gas Bill; Great Berkhampstead Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

Croydon Gas Bill; North Sussex Gas Bill. Reported, with Amendments; Reports to lie upon the Table.

Nottingham and Retford Railway Bill. Reported, without Amendment; Report to lie upon the Table, and to be printed.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have passed a Bill, intituled, "An Act to regulate Whale Fisheries in Scotland." [Whale Fisheries (Scotland) Bill [Lords.]

And, also, a Bill, intituled, "An Act for uniting the ecclesiastical parish of Holy Trinity, Portsea, with one or more contiguous parishes, and for authorising and carrying into effect an agreement between the Bishop of Winchester and the Admiralty for the sale of the church and vicarage house of Holy Trinity, Portsea, and for the disposal of the purchase-money and the endowments of the benefice; and for other purposes connected therewith." [Holy Trinity, Portsea, Bill [Lords.]

Holy Trinity, Portsea, Bill [Lords]. Read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

PETITIONS.

JUVENILE SMOKING BILL.

Petition from Edinburgh, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES (QUALIFICATION OF WOMEN) BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Exmouth (four); Leicester; Liverpool; and members of the London County Council; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petitions against; from Earl's Court; Hayle; Newport (Essex); and Southsea; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (SUNDAY) BILL.

Petition from Birmingham, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WINES IMPORTED.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 27th February; *Mr. Gibbs*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 105.]

ALIENS.

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 13th March; *Mr. Cochrane*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 106.]

NAVY (VOLUNTEER RESERVE).

Copy presented, of the Regulations, the Civil and Administrative Rules, and the Acts providing for the Constitution of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Return of the Areas, Population, and Valuation of Counties, Burghs, and Parishes in Scotland [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

AFRICA (No. 3, 1905).

Copy presented, of Memorandum on the state of the African Protectorates administered under the Foreign Office [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Publication of the "New Ireland Review."

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the publication and free circulation of a work called the "New Ireland Review" by the Department of Agriculture; if he can state the entire cost of this work to the public; and whether, in view of the statements on page 13, he will explain why it should be circulated at the public expense.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) My hon. friend has been misinformed. The "New Ireland Review" is neither published nor circulated by the Department.

Appointment of Miss Duffy as Crochet Lace Teacher at Monaghan.

MR. McKEAN (Monaghan, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will explain why the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland has refused to sanction the appointment made by the County Monaghan Committee of Technical Instruction of Miss Brigid Duffy, as crochet lace teacher, in view of the fact that Miss Duffy held a similar position with the approval of the Department under the County Galway Committee of Technical Instruction from 1901 till 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Department refused to approve of the appointment of Miss Duffy because she was not qualified for teaching fine Clones crochet, which is an essential for county Monaghan. The work upon which Miss Duffy was engaged in county Galway was chiefly raised crochet.

Farms for Evicted Tenants.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have got untenanted land on hand in any part of the country; and, if so, whether they are prepared to provide for Thomas M'Cormack, Timahoe, Queen's County, an evicted tenant, who has already notified his willingness to accept an equivalent farm elsewhere.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) No, Sir, but if the Commissioners should acquire untenanted land in this county the claims of evicted tenants will be considered.

Reinstatement of Lord Lansdowne's Evicted Tenants at Luggacurran.

Mr. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any communications have passed between the Estates Commissioners and Lord Lansdowne relative to the reinstatement of his evicted tenants at Luggacurran, Queen's County; and, if so, whether he can state what is the result of those negotiations, and also the number of evicted tenants who remain unreinstated on the Luggacurran Estate of Lord Lansdowne.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) An inspection of this estate is proceeding, and the inspector has been instructed to inquire and report as to the reinstatement of evicted tenants. I have no information as to the number of the latter.

Tenant Purchasers in County Longford.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the actual number of persons who have purchased their farms in county Longford under the Land Purchase Act, 1903, and whose agreements have been sanctioned by the Estates Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Advances have been sanctioned to 313 persons.

Science Training Classes in Ireland.

Mr. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any Part II. organisers science classes, which deal with the programme for sixth and seventh standard pupils in boys' schools, or any courses for training female teachers in the special programme in elementary science in girls' schools have been held in the counties of Mayo or Galway; whether the Commissioners of National Education intend to make provision for the training in these programmes of the teachers of these counties, for the majority of whom no technical schools are available; and, if not, whether they will have these programmes withdrawn.

Mr. JOHN O'DONNELL: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Commissioners of National Education intend that in districts generally where no technical schools are available for training the teachers any science instruction is to be given to the sixth and seventh standard pupils in boys' and girls' schools respectively; and, if so, what provision is to be made in these districts to give the teachers the necessary training to enable them to impart such instruction.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) No such classes have been held in Mayo or Galway, but teachers from both counties have attended classes of the kind in Dublin. No special arrangements have been made for these counties, but, as I have already stated, the head organiser and two assistants have been permanently retained to continue the training of teachers in science. It is not intended to withdraw the programmes for the sixth and seventh standards. These programmes were promulgated tentatively, and managers are strongly urged to submit for approval syllabuses to suit the particular requirements of their localities. Object-lessons on suitable subjects are considered sufficient in all standards in schools having only one teacher, or not having teachers specially qualified in science.

Sitting of Sub-Land Commission at Bantry.

Mr. GILHOOLY (Cork County, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the inconvenience the small occupiers of land in the Castletown Berehaven district have been subjected to by the action of the Sub-Land Commissioners, who recently held a sitting of their Court at Bantry, thereby causing some of the occupiers referred to to travel forty miles to have their cases heard; whether he has received a resolution from the Castletown Berehaven District Council in connection with this matter; and whether in future he will take steps to have a sitting of the Land Commission Court held at Castletown Berehaven.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The sittings of the Sub-Commissioners are fixed by the Land Commission, with due regard to the general convenience of all the parties interested, and the time at the disposal of the Sub-Commissioners. No complaint was made at the recent sittings at Bantry of the nature referred to in the Question, and I have no power to intervene in the matter as suggested. The Land Commission, however, are always prepared to meet, as far as is possible, the expressed desire of the various parties, and I have communicated to them the resolution of the district council.

Legalising of Colonial Marriages in this Country.

GENERAL LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table copies of the communications received from the Governments of the self-governing Colonies relative to the legalising in this country of marriages lawfully contracted in other parts of the Empire.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) The communication on the subject which I have received is a despatch from the Government of the Australian Commonwealth, and I will lay that despatch upon the Table of the House.

Issue of Transvaal Loan.

MR. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will lay upon the Table further correspondenec between the Colonial Office and the Transvaal Government as to the issue of the Transvaal Loan; and whether he will include the draft Ordinance forwarded to the Transvaal on August 22nd, 1903, for sanction by the Legislative Council.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) All the material correspondence up to January, 1904, on this subject has been published in Cd. 1895. I do not propose to publish that which has taken place since, as it was of a strictly confidential character. The publication of the draft Ordinance would not, in my opinion, add any material information, but I shall be happy to send a copy to the hon. Member if he desires to see it.

Negotiations with Colonies on Subject of Retaliation, etc., previous to 1902.

SIR WILFRID LAWSON (Cornwall, Camborne): To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies whether there are any records in the Colonial Office of negotiations with the Colonial Ministers on the subject of retaliation and colonial preference previous to the Colonial Conference of 1902.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Lyttelton.*) I refer the hon. Baronet to the Prime Minister's Answer to the Question of the hon. Member for Kincardineshire.

Lost Dogs removed by the Metropolitan Police.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, having regard to the fact that out of 27,994 dogs removed by the Metropolitan Police from the streets of the Metropolis, 23,261 were taken to the Dogs Home, Battersea, and 4,181 restored to their owners by the police, will he state in what districts the 552 dogs which have not been accounted for were captured, and whether it is to be assumed that they were destroyed by the police.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I fear I cannot undertake to inform the hon. Member in what districts these 552 dogs were captured, but they are accounted for as follows:—505 of them escaped from the police, thirty-five were destroyed by the police, and twelve died while in their hands.

Free Railway Passes for Members of Parliament.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he is aware that in the British Colonies and on the Continent, Members of Parliament have free passes on the railways; whether he will approach the carrying corporations with a view to arrange that Irish Members shall have free passes to and from the House of Commons to Ireland during the session.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The Board of Trade are aware that in some countries free passes over the railways are given to Members of the Legislature. It is not proposed to take any action in the direction suggested by the hon. Member.

Accident to Live Stock on Midland Great Western Railway—Failure to hold Board of Trade Inquiry.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether he is aware that an accident to live stock occurred on the Midland Great Western Railway Company's line in November, 1903; and whether he will find out the reason given or explanation for the omission of holding the usual Board of Trade inquiry.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) I am not aware of any accident of the nature described on the Midland Great Western Railway in November, 1903, but the hon. Member is perhaps referring to an accident on the 6th of that month to a cattle train on the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway, as he recently asked for a copy of the report thereon. The circumstances of that accident did not seem to call for investigation, and an inquiry was not therefore ordered by the Department.

British Trade with Canada and New Zealand.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state the value of the imports into the United Kingdom from Canada and New Zealand in 1896 and 1904 respectively; and of the exports of British goods to those Colonies in the same years.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) The declared values of the imports into the United Kingdom from Canada and New Zealand respectively, and of the exports thereto of British and Irish produce from the United Kingdom in 1896 and 1904 were as follows:—

Colony.	Imports.		Exports.	
	1896.	1904.	1896.	1904.
	£	£	£	£
Canada - - - -	16,047,263	22,621,164	5,352,029	10,624,221
New Zealand - -	8,060,360	12,741,510	3,995,092	6,315,090

Railways Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900—Rules.

Mr. BELL (Derby): To ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade if he can state what are the results of the Board of Trade's action in issuing the Statutory Rules and Orders, No. 616, on August 8th, 1902, pursuant to the Railways Employment (Prevention of Accidents) Act, 1900; how many places where tow-roping and propping were practised have been prohibited under Section 2 of the above rules; how many engines and tenders have been fitted with power brakes under Section 3; how many stations and sidings, where shunting operations are carried on, have been lighted as per Section 4; how many places where point rods and signal wires have been covered over or removed under Section 5; how many engines have been provided with convenient places for tool boxes and fire-irons as per Section 7; whether look-out men are always employed to give warning to men employed in relaying or other similar dangerous occupations on the permanent way as per Section 9; and whether applications have been received by the Board for extension of time as per Section 10; and, if so, will he give the names of the companies applying and the reference of such applications.

(*Answered by Mr. Bonar Law.*) It is not possible to state in detail what has been the action of the railway companies in carrying out the statutory rules in question. The Board are ready, as the hon. Member is aware, to make inquiry into cases where it is alleged that the rules are not observed. Three companies have, under Rule 10, applied for, and have been granted, some extension of time for complying with certain rules, viz., the Metropolitan District, and the Dublin, Wicklow, and Wexford Railway Companies in respect of Rule 5, and the Brecon and Merthyr Railway Company in respect of Rule 3.

Perthshire Motor-Car Order—Omission of the Village of Bridge of Earn.

Mr. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Lord-Advocate on what ground the village of Bridge of Earn was omitted by the Secretary for Scotland from the scheduled areas in the recent Motor-Car Order for Perthshire; whether he has received memorials on the subject from the parish council and school board showing that the road through the village is one much frequented by motors, and that considerable danger is apprehended from the absence of any limitation on the speed of motors passing through the village; whether a limitation of speed is imposed in other and smaller villages on the same and similar roads in Perthshire; and, if so, whether, in view of the feeling in the locality, he will amend the Order accordingly and impose a maximum rate of speed within the village.

(*Answered by Mr. Scott Dickson.*) The memorials referred to are received at the Scottish Office. The question of restricting speed at Bridge of Earn, among other places, was considered by the late Secretary for Scotland, who had a personal conference with the road authority of Perthshire before issuing the order limiting speed at various points in the county, and whose decision was that sufficient ground was not made out for including the road at Bridge of Earn in the restricting order. The present Secretary for Scotland sees no reason for departing from that decision, which was reached after careful and repeated consideration, and with an intimate knowledge of the county. I may remind the hon. Member that the road authority are entitled to erect warning signposts at points where no speed limit is imposed if they think it necessary.

Lift Accident in a City Hotel—Precautions for Public Safety.

Sir THOMAS DEWAR (Tower Hamlets, St. George's): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to a recent inquest held before Dr. Waldo concerning the death of a young woman who lost her life through falling down a lift in a City hotel; and, in view of the recommendation of the jury that all lifts should be provided with locking gates, and in the case of the Metropolis be subject to inspection by the London County Council, will he communicate with that body on the subject, or take such other steps as he may consider prudent in the interest of the public safety.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) I have not received any report of the inquest referred to in the Question. The safe construction, arrangement, and fencing of lifts is a matter which is carefully attended to in factories, warehouses, and other places coming under the Factory Act; but there are no powers, so far as I am aware, to deal with the matter in other places such as hotels and offices. Legislation would be required for the purpose, which I am afraid I cannot promise to undertake; but any proposals for giving local authorities the power of dealing with the matter would receive my careful consideration.

Motor-Car Drivers—Convictions for Failure to produce Licences.

Sir THOMAS DEWAR: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, having regard to the wording of Section 3 (4) of the Motor-Car Act, 1903, will he state whether any persons holding a licence for driving a motor-car have been summoned for not producing such licence when demanded by the police; and, if so, will he state the number of prosecutions, and the number of convictions obtained; and, to meet the case of motor driver licence-holders who do not happen to have the licence in their personal possession at the time it is demanded, will he consider the expediency of instructing the police to enter prosecutions in those cases only in which the motor driver's assertion that he has taken out a licence has proved on inquiry to be false.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Akers-Douglas.*) My information extends to the Metropolitan Police District only. In that district, between the 1st January, 1904, and the 28th February, 1905, 230 summonses were taken out by the Metropolitan Police against drivers for failing to produce their licences, and these resulted in 216 convictions. The hon. Member will hardly expect me to issue instructions to the police which would be in contravention of the plain words of Section 3 of the Motor-Car Act, 1903, which makes it an offence to fail to produce the licence on the demand of a constable.

Condition of Roads in Regent's Park.

Mr. BRYCE (Aberdeen, S.): To ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether the attention of the Office of Works has been called to the unsatisfactory state of the roads in Regent's Park, the roughness of whose surface has been long complained of by cyclists and by persons driving in the park; and whether steps will be forthwith taken to bring them into a better condition.

(*Answered by Lord Balcarres.*) The state of these roads has been engaging the attention of the First Commissioner for some time past. He hopes to be able to effect some improvement.

Adoption of Recommendations of the Bradford Committee's Report.

Sir JAMES WOODHOUSE (Huddersfield): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he has yet formulated any definite scheme to give effect to any of the recommendations of the Bradford Report; and, if so, will he state the particulars or say when they will be furnished to the House.

(*Answered by Lord Stanley.*) The Memorandum which is in the hands of hon. Members to-day gives the desired particulars.

Electro Peat-Coal Manufacture.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture have appointed an expert to inquire into and report upon the electro peat-coal manufacture; and whether it can be successfully carried out in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Department have inquired into certain processes for the manufacture of peat fuel by electricity, but, in the absence of information as to the particular process referred to in the Question, they are not prepared to express any opinion as to whether it could be successfully carried out in Ireland.

Transit in Ireland.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what the Government propose doing to carry into effect the Resolution recently unanimously passed by the House to amend, modify, and cheapen transit conditions in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) Legislation would be necessary to give effect to the Resolution, and I am unable to give an undertaking that the Government will introduce such legislation.

Beet Sugar Cultivation and Manufactur in Ireland.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the results accruing to German agriculturists from the cultivation of sugar beet, he will advise the Department of Agriculture to establish an experimental farm for the purpose of testing beet sugar culture and manufacture in Ireland.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The reply to this Question is in the negative, for the reasons stated in my reply to the hon. Member on the 23rd instant.†

Mountmellick Petty Sessions—Town Commissioners and Fines for Drunkenness.

Mr. DELANY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state what portion of the fines for offences of drunkenness imposed at petty sessions, Mountmellick, go to the Town Commissioners; and whether he will instruct the police to prosecute all charges of drunkenness committed within the township in the town Court instead of at petty sessions.

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† See page 940.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) In the case of fines imposed at petty sessions for drunkenness committed within the town one-half of the penalty goes to the Town Commissioners and the other half to the police. The police, however, prosecute at the town Court in all cases of offences of drunkenness committed by residents of the town, in which case the entire penalty goes to the Commissioners, and they prosecute at petty sessions in those cases only in which the offender resides outside the town or his residence is not known. This arrangement, which has been in operation for the past twenty years, is regarded as equitable, in view of the concurrent jurisdiction in respect of the offence of drunkenness which exists between the town Court and petty sessions Court.

Case of Police v. John Munnelly.

Mr. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the minute made by the magistrates at Belmullet Petty Sessions on February 27th, recording their decision in the case of the Police *v.* John Munnelly, and in the case of John Munnelly *v.* the Police.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) In each of the three cases referred to in my Answer to the hon. Member's Question of the 27th instant,† the order of the magistrates, as recorded in the Order Book, is "Dismissed on merits." In a fourth case, in which the police prosecuted Mr. Munnelly for using threatening language to one Michael Maguire, the order, similarly recorded, is "Munnelly ordered to enter into recognisances to keep the peace and be of good behaviour for twelve months, himself in £20 (Twenty pounds)."

Reinstatement of Evicted Tenants on the Coyne Estate, Belmullet.

Mr. O'KELLY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received any communication from the evicted tenants on the Coyne Estate, Belmullet Union, county Mayo, on the subject of their reinstatement on the purchase of the estate; and whether the Commissioners have taken any steps to ascertain if the landlord is willing to sell; if not, whether they propose to do so in order that these evicted tenants may be restored to their former holdings or to new and enlarged holdings.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The Commissioners do not propose to take any special steps with respect to this estate, which has not yet been brought before them for sale, but the applications of the evicted tenants will not be lost sight of, and will be duly considered when a suitable opportunity presents itself.

Irish Department of Agriculture—Unexpended Balances.

Mr. WILLIAM MOORE (Antrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland to what funds, being the total amounts unexpended of their several annual grants since 1900, is the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction in Ireland at present entitled.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) It is assumed that this Question relates to the Department's endowment fund which, however, is made up of capital sums as well as of annual receipts under Section 15 of The Agriculture and Technical Instruction Act, 1899. The unexpended balances of the Department's annual income at present amount to, approximately, £177,000, of which £115,000 is already earmarked for technical instruction in county boroughs and county and urban districts, for sea fisheries, and for buildings at the Royal Veterinary College and at the Munster Institute, in accordance with Section 16 of the Act.

Appointment of Manager of Lislea No. 1 National School.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state what were the local differences which led the National Board to refuse to appoint a local manager, as requested in the memorial of the parents of children attending the Lislea No. 1 National School, county Armagh, instead of the present temporary manager, who resides twenty miles distant from the school; and whether he is aware that the lessee of the school is Mr. R. R. Murphy, J.P.

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† See page 1182.

(*Answered by Mr. Walter Long.*) The local difference referred to was a difference of opinion as to the most fitting appointment to be made. No memorial was received from the parents of the children until after the appointment of the present temporary manager, and the Commissioners saw no sufficient reason to vary that appointment. The case will come up for review within the next three months. Mr. R. R. Murphy is not the lessee of the school. The Commissioners, in whom the school is vested, are themselves the lessees.

Sale of Soldiers' Effects—Amount Realised since South African War.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the annual amount realised since the outbreak of the South African War from the sale of soldiers' effects under the Regimental Debts Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The amounts realised by the sale of soldiers' kits, etc., are not recorded separately from other credits due to their estates, and could not be ascertained without examining each account; this would involve an amount of labour which cannot be undertaken.

Army Boot Contracts—Fair Wages Clause.

MR. BELL: To ask the Secretary of State for War if he is aware that a strike is in progress of boot and shoe operatives employed by Government contractors in Raunds in consequence of the employers' violation of the Fair Wages Clause governing contracts; and if he will inquire the cause and insist upon the Fair Wages Clause being observed in all contracts for boots for the use of His Majesty's Army.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) I am aware of a strike amongst some of the workpeople at Raunds. I do not understand that the strike is in consequence of any violation of the Wages Clause of the War Department contracts. I understand that the strike is caused by the refusal of certain manufacturers to adopt a schedule of prices which has been agreed to by some other manufacturers. Every endeavour is made to secure the strict observance of the Wages Clause in all War Department contracts. If and when I have reason to believe that the wages being paid are not those generally current in the district (as required by the Wages Clause), I will, in this as in all other cases, cause an inquiry to be instituted at once.

MR. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the statement of wages to be paid for Army boot work under Government contracts agreed on in June, 1904, at a meeting of Army contractors and workmen's representatives, signed in September, 1904, by the representatives on both sides, and accepted by the War Office at a deputation on 17th November as evidence of the current scale of wages, has been set aside by several contractors who have tendered for, and obtained, contracts, and are offering the work at prices lower than those agreed to, and even below those previously paid; and what steps he proposes to take to secure that the Fair or Current Wage Clause of Government contracts shall be observed.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) A statement was agreed to by certain of the contractors and signed by their representatives. It did not represent the whole of the contractors in the district, and it was afterwards partially repudiated. It was never accepted by this Department as a statement of wages to be paid. It was merely regarded as some evidence of a desire to arrive at a uniform scale. This was made quite clear at the time to the deputation. If, and when, the Department has reason to believe that the Wage Clause of War Department contracts is being infringed, steps will at once be taken to secure its due observance.

Expenditure under the Military Works Acts.

MR. BUCHANAN (Perthshire, E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the amount spent under the Military Works Acts during the current year; and what is the estimated amount to be spent under these Acts for the ensuing year.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster.*) The expenditure for the year ending 31st March, 1905, will amount to about £3,370,000. The expenditure to be incurred in 1905–6 is still under consideration.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Naval Engineering Department—Enlistment of Youths.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Admiralty authorities are now endeavouring to procure the services of boys and youths under eighteen who were formerly only enlisted as bluejackets for the engineering department of the Royal Navy; if so, will those boys and youths be subject, as in the case of boys and youths who enlist as bluejackets in the Royal Navy, to floggings, according to the King's Regulations, and to canings for trivial offences, such punishments to be inflicted by the ship's police and in the presence of all the boys on board ship; and, if so, will the boys and youths thus invited to enlist and their parents and guardians be apprised of the conditions of service in the Royal Navy.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): Boys are being entered for training for the artificer branch of the Royal Navy. They are subject to the general rules as regards discipline in force in the Royal Navy. The recruiting pamphlet states the general conditions of service, including the liability referred to in the second part of the hon. Member's Question.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Now I want to put this plain Question. Are these boys subject to flogging with the birch or cane as in the case of ordinary bluejackets, and is that fact made perfectly well known to parents before the boys are allowed to enter the engineering department? I want to advertise this.

MR. PRETYMAN: I think the hon. Gentleman has already accomplished that, but it has not affected recruiting for the Navy.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL rose to put a further Question.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member announced that he wanted to advertise something. This is not the time or place for that.

Vegetable Rations—The National Antarctic Expedition.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the National Antarctic Expedition was supplied with Maconochie's vegetable rations; whether these rations, or the greater part of them, proved to be unfit for consumption; and whether the crew of the "Discovery" were in danger of an outbreak of scurvy from want of vegetables.

MR. PRETYMAN: No rations were supplied by the Admiralty to the "Discovery." Some of the rations purchased by the Admiralty for the "Terra Nova" Relief Expedition were supplied by Messrs. Maconochie. But as regards that ship, there is no foundation whatever for the suggestion contained in the latter part of the hon. Member's Question.

*MR. MACONOCHIE (Aberdeenshire, E.): As this question affects me personally, may I be allowed to make a statement to the House. No meat and vegetable rations similar to those supplied to South Africa were supplied to the "Discovery." The company did supply a quantity of general stores. The balance not consumed arrived in London in perfect order, and was passed by the Medical Officer of Health. Samples have been exhibited at 165, Queen Victoria Street, for many weeks past, and the bulk may be seen by the hon. Member if he wishes. Independent expert declarations have been received by the company proving the high quality of the goods. No complaint has been received. The whole of the books connected with these particular transactions are open to the inspection of the hon. Member, and every assistance and information will be given to him.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Order, order! This is not a personal explanation.

*Mr. MACONOCHIE: I wish to point out that this persistent system of pursuing a firm——

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Order, order! Sit down.

*Mr. SPEAKER: I must ask hon. Members to leave me to take care of the order of the House. The hon. Member is now going beyond a personal explanation. If he is not satisfied with the very complete Answer given to the Question, he may add anything relating to the Answer to the Question, but he is going beyond that.

*Mr. MACONOCHIE: I fully appreciate the concession made to me, and will only say that I am as anxious as hon. Members for an early discussion, and shall be only too glad if it comes speedily.

Admiralty Surgeon at Belmullet.

Mr. O'KELLY (Mayo, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he will state the grounds on which the application of Dr. MacHale, medical officer of Belmullet district, for the appointment of surgeon to the Admiralty in that place, was rejected, seeing that for fifty years the position was held by Dr. MacHale's predecessors as local medical officer; if he will state why, contrary to invariable practice, a doctor living in another part of the country was appointed to the vacancy; and if he will also state the fees now being paid to this doctor and the fees paid annually for the previous ten years; the number of coastguards to be attended; and whether, before appointing the present surgeon, the Admiralty made any effort to have the work done for less than what they are now paying.

*Mr. PRETYMAN: The Admiralty did not consider that Dr. MacHale was the most suitable gentleman for the post, and it has never been the practice to appoint a man simply because his predecessor held the appointment of surgeon and agent. The present holder of the appointment is paid 10s. a visit. Previously the ordinary surgeon and agent's fees of 2s. 6d. per visit were allowed. It is not possible to state the precise amount paid in fees annually during the previous ten years without an elaborate investigation of records, which would involve considerable clerical labour and time. The number of coastguards to be attended at the five stations under the surgeon and agent's charge is thirty. The reply to the last part of the hon. Member's Question is in the negative.

The New Rifle—Re-arming the Infantry.

Captain NORTON (Newington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, seeing that the new pattern rifle is to be issued to mounted troops only, he can state what steps are being taken with reference to the re-armament of the infantry.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Arnold-Forster, Belfast, W.): No steps are at present being taken to re-arm the infantry in the United Kingdom and the Colonies.

Sale of Military Buildings—Comptroller-General's Inquiries.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he can state what replies, if any, have been furnished to the queries of the Comptroller-General respecting sale of buildings and other matters referred to on pages 21 and 22, Military Works Account, 1903–1904.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: In three cases replies have been sent in accordance with the requirements of the Auditor-General. In a fourth case the reply has been followed by a further query, which is now being dealt with. Replies to the remaining queries await the result of communications with South Africa.

German Emperor's Visit to Gibraltar.

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY (Islington, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether, during the proposed visit of the Emperor of Germany and his staff to Gibraltar, only those parts of the fortress will be shown which are open to British subjects; and whether the same rules as to photographing the fortress or any parts of it will also be upheld which are rigidly enforced on British subjects.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: Subject to the Regulations contained in Appendix V. of the King's Regulations, the responsibility rests with the General Officer Commanding concerned, with whose discretion it is not proposed in any way to interfere.

Sir GEORGE BARTLEY: Am I to understand that greater facilities are to be given to an Emperor who is building a fleet that may be used against us than are given to loyal subjects of His Majesty?

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I have nothing to add to the Answer I have given.

Employment of Colonial Troops—Allocation of Charges

Sir BRAMPTON GURDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the cost of the Colonial troops, raised in South Africa for the defence of their own country, was borne by the Imperial Treasury; whether the normal expenses of the King's African Rifles, employed in Somaliland, were defrayed from the fund of the several Protectorates which were not concerned with the expedition on which their troops served; and what is the reason for the difference in policy in these two cases.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The cost of the Colonial troops, specially raised for the war, was borne by Imperial funds up to 31st October, 1901; after that date it was borne by Colonial funds. The normal cost of such colonial troops as existed before the war was borne by Colonial funds throughout, so long as the troops were employed within the borders of the colony. The normal cost of the King's African Rifles employed in Somaliland was borne by the funds of the Protectorates to which the several contingents belonged, except that of the 6th battalion, which was borne by the funds of the Somaliland Protectorate. As the Protectorates are not self-supporting, the ultimate incidence of the whole cost of the Somaliland operations was necessarily upon Imperial funds.

Salisbury Plain Works.

Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE (Bristol, E.): On behalf of the hon. Member for Dewsbury, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what has been the total expenditure on buildings and all other works on Salisbury Plain since the land on which they stand was purchased by the War Office.

Mr. ARNOLD-FORSTER: The capital expenditure is about £1,400,000.

India—The Plague Inquiry.

Mr. J. H. LEWIS (Flint Boroughs): On behalf of the hon. Member for West Denbighshire, I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, in connection with the scientific expedition to be sent out to India to investigate the origin and causes of plague, the co-operation of those in the areas affected possessing a knowledge of the difficulties of the problem from an Indian standpoint will be sought; and whether he will consider the desirability of adding to the Committee an Indian member with special experience of plague.

The SECRETARY of STATE for INDIA (Mr. Brodrick, Surrey, Guildford): There seems to be some misunderstanding as to the object and scope of the inquiry. The administrative aspects of plague were exhaustively dealt with by Sir Thomas Fraser's Commission of 1898–9, and the practical difficulties of combating the disease are familiar to the Indian Government and its officers. The present investigation will be confined to purely scientific problems, in the hope that, if these are solved, advance will be made in the practical treatment of the disease. The composition of the expedition has been settled on the advice of the two scientific societies which have undertaken to supervise the inquiry, and I do not propose to add another investigator to those already selected. The expedition will work in the plague-affected areas, and will naturally avail itself of local knowledge and co-operation in respect of matters within the scope of the inquiry.

Public-House Licence Duties.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON (Dundee): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer what is his estimate of the amount likely to be derived from the duty on publicans' licences in the current year; whether he is aware that the Treasury has estimated that the imposition of an *ad valorem* duty on all licensed houses equal to that now imposed upon the smallest houses would produce a revenue of £3,500,000 per annum; and whether, before asking the House to continue existing taxes on necessaries, he will consider the propriety of increasing these duties by making all houses pay at the rate now paid for the smallest houses.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Austen Chamberlain, Worcestershire, E.): The estimate of the amount likely to be derived from the duty on publicans' licences in the current year was about £1,750,000. The second paragraph of the Question is founded on a misapprehension of an Answer which I gave to the hon. Member last year.† I then stated that it was roughly estimated that the total annual value of public-houses, exclusive of hotels, in England and Wales, was about £7,000,000, and that 50 per cent. of £7,000,000 would amount to £3,500,000. This is a simple arithmetical fact, but it by no means follows that this amount of revenue could be obtained by imposing a 50 per cent. *ad valorem* licence duty on all such houses. Such a tax would, I conceive, certainly extinguish many of the houses, and no estimate has been made by the Treasury of the effect of its imposition on the total annual value of all public-houses.

Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the propriety of increasing the duties as suggested before he brings in his next Budget.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I consider all the suggestions made to me, but I cannot say that I derive great advantage from many of them.

Arrests on Insufficient Grounds.

Mr. LOUGH (Islington, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the number of cases that have recently been brought to his notice of persons being imprisoned against whom no charge was ultimately brought forward or substantiated, and of the increasing difficulty for guilty persons to make good their escape, he can see his way to issue general orders to the police to adopt a system of surveillance while inquiries are being made, and to refrain from indiscriminate arrests until some charge has been made good on reliable evidence.

*The SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. Akers-Douglas, Kent, St. Augustine's); The hon. Member is mistaken in thinking that many cases have recently been brought to my notice in which persons have been apprehended on insufficient grounds. On the contrary, considering that the annual number of apprehensions in England and Wales exceeds 350,000, the number of complaints I receive alleging arrest on insufficient grounds is extraordinarily small, and affords a striking testimony to the care and discretion with which the police exercise the powers which the law confers on them. A system of surveillance such as the hon. Member suggests would be quite impracticable.

Mr. LOUGH: But I know of cases that have been brought to the notice of the Home Secretary.

*Mr. AKERS-DOUGLAS: It is true that the hon. Member has written to me about four cases. Two were Irish—Irish cases are not dealt with by me, but by the Irish Government. One (the Harrods' Stores Case) was that of Bradley and Gapp, who got heavy damages from the Stores, and this shows whose fault the arrest was. The other was the Beck case. In this Beck was given in charge by a woman, and the officer could not have refused to take him into custody.

Home Office and Petitions for the Royal Prerogative of Mercy.

Captain NORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether in framing new regulations for the Criminal Prosecutions and the Criminal Appeals Departments of the Home Office, as recommended by the Beck Committee of Inquiry, he will consider the desirability of discontinuing the practice of receiving secret and so-called confidential information adverse to the persons charged or convicted, and of withholding such information from the persons concerned.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxxxix., 1562.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: There is no Criminal Prosecutions Department or Criminal Appeals Department in the Home Office. Those prosecutions which are undertaken on behalf of the Government are conducted by the Director of Public Prosecutions; and criminal appeals, where the right of appeal exists, are matters for the Courts of Law. The hon. Member no doubt refers to the Department of the Home Office which has to deal with petitions which are addressed to the Secretary of State praying for the exercise of the Prerogative of Mercy in criminal cases. I can only say that it is essential that, in considering such petitions, I should be able to communicate confidentially with Judges, magistrates, and the police. If I could not do so, the number of cases in which I can now advise the exercise of the Prerogative would be seriously restricted.

MR. LOUGH: Have the recommendations of the Committee been carried out.

*MR. AKERS-DOUGLAS: Yes, all the recommendations made by the Master of Rolls Committee have been carried out, or are on the eve of being carried out—except one, the reason for which was fully explained to the House.

Swine Fever in Ireland.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Agriculture if he will state whether, in view of the returns of alleged swine fever in Ireland during the past seven weeks, he will remove the restrictions at present in force against the landing of Irish pigs in England.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE (Mr. AILWYN FELLOWES, Huntingdonshire, Ramsey): My Answer must be in the negative, for the reasons which I indicated in my reply to the hon. Member for Queen's County on the 20th ult†. As I then explained, the recent action of the Board was founded upon the fact that in Ireland no precautionary measures are taken against the movement of diseased swine, or swine which may have been exposed to infection, from one part of Ireland to another, and the fact that five outbreaks of the disease have been reported during the present year shows that there would still be a danger of its introduction into Great Britain if the restrictions were withdrawn.

Building By-laws in Rural Districts.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if, in view of the fact that the building by-laws are more stringent in certain rural districts than in the county of London, he will take steps to compel their withdrawal, and issue practically uniform reasonable building regulations.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. GERALD BALFOUR, Leeds, Central): The subject of building by-laws in rural districts is receiving my attention; but I am not empowered to compel the withdrawal of existing by-laws or to issue building regulations in their place.

Underfed School Children.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, acting on the powers conferred upon his Department by Section 10 of the Act 42 and 43 Vic., c. 54, he will recommend that boards of guardians be authorised to vote the necessary funds to enable education authorities to undertake, subject to proper safeguards, the provision of meals to destitute children.

MR. GERALD BALFOUR: I am advised that boards of guardians would not be empowered by the section mentioned by the hon. Member to give effect to the arrangement to which he refers.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 585.

*Mr. KEIR HARDIE: I will call attention to this matter on the Consolidated Fund Bill.

Irish National Holiday—Railway Traffic Limitations.

Mr. JOHN O'DONNELL (Mayo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Board of Trade whether, seeing that an Act of Parliament has been passed making March 17th a national holiday, which legalises the closing of banks and other public institutions in Ireland, he will consider the advisability of making an Order confining railway traffic in that country to the limits beyond which they do not go on Good Friday and Christmas Day in each year.

The PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY to the BOARD of TRADE (Mr. Bonar Law, Glasgow, Blackfriars): The Board of Trade have no power to make such an Order.

Annunciators in the Dining-Rooms and Tea-Rooms of the House of Commons.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is prepared to furnish the amount of money requisite for the erection of annunciators in the dining-rooms and tea-rooms.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL: I beg also to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether he will have annunciators installed in the dining-rooms and tea-rooms for the convenience of Members.

Lord BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): No provision has been made in the Estimates for this service, and the First Commissioner is not therefore prepared to instal annunciators in the rooms in question during the year 1905–6. The suggestion of the hon. Member will be favourably considered in framing the Estimates for 1906–7.

Admiralty Courtyard, Whitehall.

General LAURIE (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the hon. Member for Chorley, as representing the First Commissioner of Works, whether he is yet able to make any announcement as to the removal of the plaster and wooden panelling placed at the back of the colonnade on the Whitehall front of the courtyard of the Admiralty.

Lord BALCARRES: The First Commissioner has personally examined the screen, and is quite willing to remove the sliding wooden doors referred to, but doubts the advantage of doing so. The screen wall at the back of the colonnade is built of stone repaired with plaster and painted; it forms an integral part of the structure designed by Robert Adam, and cannot be removed.

Motor Engines for Fishing Boats.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if he will endeavour to arrange that the operation of fixing a trial motor engine into a fishing boat at Aberdeen will take place during the Easter holidays, so that Members interested may be able to be present.

*The LORD-ADVOCATE (Mr. Scott Dickson, Glasgow, Bridgton): I am not able to promise that a vessel equipped with motor engines will be ready for inspection by the time mentioned by the hon. Member, but matters are being pushed forward as rapidly as possible.

Motor Traffic—Ayrshire County Council Regulations.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate if the regulations submitted by the Ayrshire County Council with reference to motor traffic have now been approved by the Secretary for Scotland.

*Mr. SCOTT DICKSON: The Secretary for Scotland hopes to be able to issue this Order in the course of next week.

Lisbellaw Petty Sessions Appeal.

Mr. JORDAN (Fermanagh, S.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland what official or department is responsible for authorising the statement of a case from the Lisbellaw Petty Sessions, in the matter of Inspector Murnane *v.* the Justices of Fermanagh, heard recently in the King's Bench, Dublin; whether he is aware that the Lord Chief Justice, when delivering judgment, stated that the matter before them was in itself of little or no importance; and if he will state the cost incurred by the Crown for witnesses and lawyers in this case.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL for IRELAND (Mr. Atkinson, Londonderry, N.): The police were directed by the Executive to apply to have a case stated. I decline to state the names of the several officials before whom the matter came. The point involved in the case was most important, namely, whether, in the case of the sale of drink to a person who was at the time in fact drunk, knowledge of his condition on the part of the vendor was necessary to constitute an offence under the statute. The Court decided, according to the contention of the Crown, that such knowledge was not necessary. What the Chief Justice said was, that "it was really of very little importance what became of the particular case, but that it was of grave importance to the administration of the law that the point should be understood, and that it should be declared that it was not of the essence of the offence that the impeached publican should have knowledge of the state of the man who was alleged to have been drunk." A very grave charge, amounting in effect to collusion and conspiracy, was made against the police by the defendant, supported by the affidavit of the hon. Member, who was one of the presiding justices, and by the affidavits of others. It was therefore necessary to summon these persons to Dublin for examination if required. The Court decided that there was no foundation for this charge. The entire costs incurred in the case amounted to £45 9s.

Mr. JORDAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that I refused to sign a case because I thought it was vexatious litigation.

Mr. ATKINSON: Yes, but unfortunately for the hon. Member the Bench entirely disagreed with him.

Mr. JORDAN: Was I not ready to give evidence, and did they not refuse to call me?

Mr. ATKINSON: The hon. Gentleman made an affidavit and desired to be cross-examined on it, but it was not thought necessary.

Mr. JORDAN: Did not the magistrates at the rehearing again dismiss the case on its merits?

Mr. ATKINSON: It may be so. If so, we shall probably hear of it again.

The Kingston Estate.

Mr. WILLIAM ABRAHAM (Cork County, N.E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state whether any action has been taken by the Estates Commissioners to bring about the reinstatement of Mr. Thomas Kent in the holding on the Kingston Estate, from which he was evicted in 1887, having regard to the fact that the holding is vacant and in the possession of the vendor, and that the sale and purchase of the Kingston Estate is in process of being dealt with by the Commissioners.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.): Mr. Kent's application for reinstatement will be considered when the estate has been inspected.

Bangor (County Down) Improvement Bill.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, in the case of the Bangor (county Down) Improvement Bill, a petition has been presented against the Bill by a landowner of the district, and that such petition has been deposited by Mr. Tighe Macredy, solicitor, Dublin; and whether, seeing that Mr. Macredy is solicitor to the Local Government Board, by which body a report on the Bill must be sent to the Select Committee, he will say whether it is usual for the solicitor to the Local Government Board to act for opponents of a Bill upon which the Board has to advise.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Messrs. Macredy are employed by the Board when they require the services of a solicitor, but are not debarred from taking private practice. The Board have no occasion to employ their solicitors in connection with private Bills, and Messrs. Macredy are therefore not consulted in such matters, nor do they see the Board's reports before they are made public

Kilrush Harbour Creek.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the creek, Kilrush Harbour, is Crown or Government property; if so, whether the Commissioners of Woods and Forests or the Board of Trade Departments have power to transfer ownership or guardianship of the creek; and, if such power be vested in those offices, will they give a transfer of such powers to the Kilrush Urban Council, acting as local authority, for the purpose of making it available as required for commercial purposes.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Master of the Rolls has, in the case of Vandeleur *v.* Glynn, judicially decided that the foreshore in this creek belongs to the plaintiff, Colonel Vandeleur. An appeal to the Court of Appeal against that decision is now pending, and until it has been decided the Question cannot be answered.

Owenmore River Drainage.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that the county of Sligo has received no grant under the Marine Works Act, the Government will now consider the advisability of allocating a portion of the balance of £4,000 remaining on foot of the funds provided under The Sea Fisheries Act, 1883, for the drainage of the Owenmore River in that county.

MR. WALTER LONG: The funds provided under The Sea Fisheries Act are expressly limited in their application to the purposes of that Act. These purposes do not include drainage.

MR. O'DOWD: But will the Government make inquiry with a view to giving some assistance in this matter, seeing that the people have been ruined and are unable to carry out this necessary work?

MR. WALTER LONG: It is impossible to answer a Question of that kind across the floor of the House, but if the hon. Gentleman has any facts to communicate to me, I will consider them.

Sugar Beetroot Cultivation in Ireland.

MR. O'DOWD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, seeing that sugar beetroot can be successfully and profitably grown in Ireland, even on land of inferior quality, the Irish Department of Agriculture will now take some practical steps towards encouraging the cultivation of that crop.

MR. WALTER LONG: The hon. Member's attention does not appear to have been directed to my reply to the similar Question put to me on Thursday last† by the hon. Member for St. Patrick's Division.

Irish National Education—Effect of Rule 127 (b).

MR. O'DOWD: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has received from the Rev. M. Keaneny, P.P., of Charlestown, county Mayo, copies of resolutions recently adopted by the clerical managers of national schools in the diocese of Achenry protesting against the issue by the Commissioners of National Education of Rule 127 (b); and whether, in view of the effect of this rule on Irish country school children and of the protests made against it, the rule will be withdrawn.

MR. WALTER LONG: The rule has not yet come into operation. I have already stated the reasons for its adoption, and the extent to which the Commissioners have agreed to qualify its application. The rule was made solely in the interests of Irish school children under eight years of age.

MR. THOMAS O'DONNELL (Kerry, W.): How many assistant teachers will be thrown out of employment by enforcement of this rule?

MR. WALTER LONG: I cannot answer that Question off-hand. The matter has, however, been carefully considered. The rule is in the interest of school children of a particular age, and the result on the teachers is a totally different question which does not arise here.

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† See page 940.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: But where the boys are removed an assistant teacher will of necessity lose his employment?

Mr. WALTER LONG: Obviously, in the adoption of any rules of this kind, whether in Ireland or in England, there must be some effect on the teacher, but the object is to benefit the children, and I am informed as a matter of fact that no injustice is done by this rule to the teachers.

Mr. THOMAS O'DONNELL: If, as I understand, 600 men will be thrown out of employment, after they have given their lives to the service, what is to be done with them?

Mr. WALTER LONG: That is a hypothetical Question. First, it will be necessary to ascertain if it is a fact; and, if it be so, then will be the time to consider whether there is any remedy.

Cusack Estate, County Longford.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state the position in regard to the purchase of the Cusack, county Longford, Estate by the Estates Commissioners; whether the negotiations have yet been concluded or not; and, if not, will he urge upon the Commissioners the necessity of closing this matter promptly.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners are now about to send an inspector to examine and report upon this estate.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: When will the inspector go there?

Mr. WALTER LONG: Really, it is impossible for me to answer as to every detail of the work of the Commissioners. The hon. Member may be certain that they will not unduly delay any work they have to perform, but I must leave these things to their discretion.

Mr. J. P. FARRELL: There has already been a delay of eighteen months.

Organisers' Science Classes in County Meath.

Mr. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how many preliminary and Part II. organisers' science classes for national teachers have been held in county Meath, and how many teachers have attended these courses; whether any, and, if so, how many suitable technical schools are available in the county at which the remainder of the teachers can get trained, and at which those who attended the preliminary classes can complete their course, and what provision is made for the training of those for whom no technical schools are available; whether he can state the number of convents in Ireland in which preliminary science courses have been held, and what provision is made by the Commissioners of National Education to enable the nuns who attended the preliminary courses to complete their course; and whether any arrangements can be made for the training of nuns who have received no science instruction.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Part I. classes in elementary science have been held at two places in the county, and attended by fifty-nine teachers. The head organiser and two assistants have been permanently retained for training teachers in science. Ninety classes have been held in convent schools, and the services of a lady assistant organiser are available for this and similar work in future. I am making inquiry as to the remaining point raised in the Question, and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Agricultural Instructors in Ireland.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, since the framing of the rule by the Agricultural Department excluding the people of a county from appointments as instructors in their own county, the appointment for Donegal of Mr. J. D. Cassidy, a native of the county, with a permanent residence therein, as an instructor in bee-keeping was sanctioned by the Department; why may not the departure from the rule which has been sanctioned in this case be sanctioned in other cases; and whether, having regard to the deadlock in the administration of agricultural schemes in Donegal and the discontent produced by this rule, he will advise its withdrawal.

Mr. WALTER LONG: Yes, Sir, but the rule referred to was not made applicable to the bee-keeping scheme, as the instructor is employed for a short time only at two seasons of the year. It is not intended to modify the rule.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: What is the foundation of the rule? Why should people with a special knowledge of the county be boycotted?

Mr. WALTER LONG: There is no justification for a charge of boycotting. I am informed that experience led those responsible to the conclusion that it was in the interest of the educated that the instructors should be chosen from another county. That practice has been adopted, the effects of it are being carefully watched, and I am assured that those responsible attach great importance to it.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Is Sir Horace Plunkett responsible for this?

Mr. WALTER LONG: No, Sir, I am responsible.

Mr. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): Where does the Department get its knowledge as to the county from which these people come, seeing that they are not able to ascertain the nationality of other public officials?

Mr. WALTER LONG: I imagine that the ordinary sources of information are open to them.

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The Question on the Paper has been fully answered, and it cannot now be argued by means of further Questions and Answers. I hope hon. Members will have some regard to the claims of others who have Questions on the Paper.

Irish Criminal Procedure – Revision of Sentences.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the practice with reference to the remission of sentences and the consideration of the propriety of the exercise by the Lord-Lieutenant of the Prerogative of Pardon in Ireland; are there, as in England, periodic reconsiderations of the sentences passed on prisoners; is there, as in England, any, and, if so, what staff of officials for the preliminary stages of this work; and, if so, what has been their training; in what respects does the Irish system differ from the Home Office system with respect to the remission of sentences and the exercise of the Prerogative of Pardon.

Mr. WALTER LONG: The remission of sentences, and the exercise of the Prerogative of Pardon in Ireland is vested in the Lord-Lieutenant. There are in Ireland, as in England, periodical reconsiderations of the sentences of all long-sentenced prisoners, in addition to the consideration of such cases on memorial. The preliminary stages of this work are carried out in the Chief Secretary's office, where all the available information is collected and summarised. It is not known that any substantial difference exists between the Irish and the English practices, but the former has remained unchanged for very many years.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL; Did not the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor state that there was no periodical revision?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to refer to a previous Answer.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: But they are so contradictory.

Police Constable Reddy, of Maryborough.

Mr. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether a complaint has been received by District-Inspector Redmond, Maryborough, that on the evening of the 6th March Constable Reddy, without any provocation, used insulting expressions in the public street to respectable residents of the town; and whether he will state what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Inspector-General is inquiring into this matter.

Longford Extra Police Force.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that in October, 1902, a force of police was requisitioned for a prosecution, for which a sum of £5 6s. 7d. extra police charge was claimed, and that although this sum was charged in respect of an offence arising out of transactions in all parts of the county of Longford the sum itself was charged solely against the urban district of Longford; and whether, seeing that, notwithstanding the fact that the county council of Longford agreed to have it levied as a county-at-large charge, it is still charged against the urban district, will he direct that the wishes of the county council to have it levied as a county-at-large charge will be now given effect to.

MR. WALTER LONG: The additional police were employed on the occasion mentioned in the town of Longford, and the charge in respect of their cost was properly levied on the urban district. This is in accordance with practice, and it is not proposed to reopen the matter, as suggested.

Colonel King-Harman's Longford Estate.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Colonel W. H. King-Harman, of Newcastle, county Longford, has recently sold through the Estates Commission an evicted tenant's farm, at Keel, formerly in possession of Patrick Fox, who is now living in a labourer's cottage, to his own son, Captain A. W. King-Harman: whether this arrangement is yet before the Estates Commissioners or not; and, if so, will they sanction a sale of this kind in view of the purposes of the Land Act of 1903.

MR. WALTER LONG: The Commissioners in the exercise of their discretion, and having made due inquiry, consider it is more to the advantage of the evicted tenant's family that the larger portion of the holding should be sold to the son of Patrick Fox. The remainder of the holding will be retained by Colonel King-Harman.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the sale of the King-Harman Estate in south Longford, in which the farm of Creagh, formerly occupied by Mr. Robert Armstrong, has been sold to a bailiff named Jones; whether he is aware that since his occupancy of this farm Jones has allowed the mansion and out-offices on it to fall into total ruin: and if, in these circumstances, this transaction will be sanctioned?

MR. WALTER LONG: The sale in this case was completed on 6th October last.

Evicted Tenants in County Longford.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any steps are being taken to provide untenanted lands in county Longford for the benefit of the evicted tenants there, eighty-six of whose applications are on file with the Estates Commissioners; and, if so, will he indicate the nature of the steps being taken to provide homes for these people under the Act of 1903.

MR. WALTER LONG: Proceedings for the purchase of two estates are at present pending before the Commissioners. In the event of any untenanted lands being distributed in the county, the claims of evicted tenants will be considered.

Irish National School Building Plans.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any alteration has yet been agreed on in Plan No. VI. A for the building of national schools in Ireland; whether he is aware that, in consequence of the delay in extending the scope of this plan, the building of national schools in Ireland has been practically at a standstill for the past three years; and, if so, will he urge upon the Treasury the necessity for expediting this change.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH, Derbyshire, W.): The particular plan cannot be dealt with apart from the question of the revision of the plans and estimates generally. It is a large question, but, as I stated on 22nd February†, I will endeavour to expedite the settlement of it. It is not the case that the building of national schools in Ireland has been practically at a standstill for the past three years.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: Can the hon. Gentleman say approximately when this matter will be settled?

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I cannot.

Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees.

MR. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he can state whether any, and, if so, what obligations are imposed on the Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees with regard to the publication and audit of their accounts; and whether these obligations have been discharged.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: I am advised that there is no statutory obligation on the Lough Neagh Drainage Trustees to publish and audit their accounts. If the hon. Member will put down an unstarred Question I shall be glad to furnish him with information as to the Act under which the trustees were created.

Portrush Harbour.

MR. MACVEAGH: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether any representations have been made to the Board of Works with reference to Portrush Harbour, county Antrim; whether any representations have been made to the Public Works Loan Board; and whether the Board of Works has any, and, if so, what, jurisdiction over the Public Works Loan Board.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH: The Board of Works have received no representations on the subject of Portrush Harbour. I learn that the Public Works Loan Commissioners are now in communication with the Portrush Harbour Company. The Public Works Loan Board is an absolutely independent body. May I add that when I answered a Question on this matter the other day I was not aware that any representations had been made to the Public Works Loan Board, nor was I aware a report had appeared in an Irish paper that I was present at the deputation.

Defence of the Empire.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether, in view of the change of policy recently announced as to secondary naval bases and military garrisons at strategic points of the Empire, on which money has lately been spent out of Military and Naval Loans Acts, he will give the House an early opportunity for the consideration of the question, other than that afforded by Estimates, upon which a portion only of the matter could be discussed; whether any intended military or naval loan proposals will be introduced early in the session; and when it may be possible to propose the Treasury Vote containing Item E, on which such matters could be raised.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, Manchester, E.): I think the right hon. Baronet is under some misconception in regard to the places where money has been expended, and which come under the new scheme. If he will ask me a further Question I shall be glad to give him any information in order that he may be prepared to deal with the subject when we come to discuss Vote E. I shall be glad to put that Vote down at any time the House desires. I think it is an important subject, but it cannot be dealt with until we get Mr. Speaker out of the Chair on the Civil Service Estimates.

The Aliens Bill.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if, now that financial business has been for the present disposed of, the Aliens Bill may be introduced on Monday and its stages advanced as rapidly as possible.

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† See (4) *Debates*, cxli., 903.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I cannot fix a date, but I am very anxious to proceed as fast as possible with the Bill.

Sea Encroachment on the English Coast.

Colonel LUCAS (Suffolk, Lowestoft): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he will agree to a Royal Commission to inquire into the damage to the coast of Great Britain caused by the encroachment of the sea, and to suggest the best course to follow to reduce such damage.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: As at present advised, I am not in a position to promise my hon. friend the Commission he desires. That Answer also applies to the Question of the hon. Member for Thanet.

Appended is the Question referred to—

Mr. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): To ask the First Lord of the Treasury what steps he is taking or proposes to take with reference to the representations that have been made to the Board of Trade on the subject of coast erosion; and whether it is proposed to institute an inquiry as to the steps that may be taken, so far as possible, to prevent such erosion.

The Unemployed.

*Mr. KEIR HARDIE: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he can state approximately when the Bill dealing with the unemployed, promised in the King's Speech, is likely to be introduced.

Mr. J. H. LEWIS: At the same time, may I ask the First Lord of the Treasury when it is proposed to introduce the Bill, promised in His Majesty's Speech, providing for the establishment of authorities to deal with the question of the unemployed.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: Unless the House will consent to the introduction of the Bill dealing with the unemployed, promised in the King's Speech, under the Ten Minutes Rule, I do not think there will be time for it before Easter. It is a measure that the Government are most anxious to proceed with.

*Mr. KEIR HARDIE: Cannot the same pledge be given for this Bill as for the Aliens Bill—that it shall be pressed on as rapidly as possible?

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: It is a measure which the Government is most anxious to proceed with.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): Will there be a reasonable time-limit put on the everlasting anxiety of boards of guardians? The uncertainty is simply wearing people out.

Mr. NANNETTI (Dublin, College Green): Will the Bill deal with the case of Ireland's unemployed?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order!

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not know whether the Gentlemen who catechise me think the Bill ought to be introduced under the Ten Minutes Rule. That course would greatly facilitate business.

*Mr. KEIR HARDIE: We shall be prepared to consider that suggestion.

Mr. J. H. LEWIS: Does the Prime Minister consider the Aliens Bill to be more important than the Unemployed Bill?

*Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The hon. Member is not entitled to put a Question of that nature.

Scottish Bills.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury if he can state when the Congested Districts Board Amendment Bill and the Whale Fisheries Bill will be brought forward for Second Reading.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I have no statement to make as to these Bills.

The Colonies and Fiscal Reform.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether any negotiations as to colonial preference or retaliation took place between the Colonial Secretary and the Colonial Prime Ministers before the Coronation Conference of 1902; and, if so, whether he will lay the correspondence upon the Table of the House.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: There were informal *pourparlers* upon the subject of colonial preference. But no record was kept, and therefore no record remains. There is no correspondence in existence which can be published.

Motions for Adjournment.

Mr. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury when he proposes to proceed with the Motion standing in his name respecting debate on Motions for Adjournment at Easter or Whitsuntide.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL also had the following Question on the Paper—To ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will fix a day before Easter for the discussion of the proposed Amendments to the rule with reference to Motions for the Adjournment of the House and the limitation of discussion in debate on such Motions.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I will have this Resolution moved some night after twelve o'clock if the House will accept it without discussion. I cannot find time before Easter, and I do not know whether I can find time after Easter for a discussion on the Resolution in view of the pressure of Government business. The Resolution was put down in deference to an appeal from hon. Gentlemen who are apparently discontented with my reply.

Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN (Stirling Burghs): As one of those who have pressed for action in this matter, I do not remember that I ever said I would accept anything that the Government proposed.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I make no complaint, but do not let hon. Members complain of me. That is all I ask.

Underfed School Children.

Mr. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether he will grant facilities for the passage into law, this session, of a short measure empowering educational authorities to provide meals for destitute children.

Mr. J. F. HOPE (Sheffield, Brightside): May I ask whether, if those facilities are given, they will be granted for the first Bill introduced on the subject—namely, the Bill of the hon. Member for Hoxton.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of a statement made by the President of the Local Government Board that boards of guardians have no legal power to deal with this pressing matter in any way whatever, and that neither the local education authorities nor——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order! The Question on the Paper should first be answered.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I do not think it would be proper even to suggest that we should take any steps until we get the Report of the Committee now sitting and inquiring into the facts.

Dr. MACNAMARA: Now may I ask if the Royal Commission on Physical Training in Scotland recommended in 1903 that there should be legislation?

***Mr. SPEAKER**: That does not arise out of the Question on the Paper, which has been fully answered.

Scottish Church Dispute.

Mr. THOMAS SHAW (Hawick Burghs): I beg to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the Report of the Royal Commission on the affairs of the United Free Church and Free Church of Scotland has been received; whether he is aware of the anxiety in the public mind upon the subject and the general desire to put an end to the uncertainties and litigation with regard to the numerous church fabrics and properties affected; and whether he can accordingly see his way to expedite the printing and issue of the Report.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am desirous of having this Report in my own possession and in the possession of the whole House. Of course, it does not rest with me to take any steps in the matter, but I am sure the Commissioners will do all they can to hasten the proceedings. Every effort will be made to expedite the printing of the Report.

Mr. FINDLAY (Lanarkshire, N.E.): Cannot some power intervene to stop the game of grab now being carried on by the Free Church—in the name of the law—until Parliament is able to deal with the subject?

[No Answer was returned].

Tariffs and Shipping Debate.

Mr. LOUGH: I wish to ask if the Prime Minister proposes to take any notice of the Resolution of the House passed unanimously last night.

*Mr. SPEAKER: That Question can be answered if it is put on the Paper. It can scarcely be treated as urgent within the meaning of the Standing Order.

Mr. LOUGH: It is generally regarded as urgent.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS.

It being now Five minutes to Three o'clock, seventeen starred Questions, including those addressed to the Colonial Secretary, remained unanswered.

*Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) asked the First Lord of the Treasury whether he would consider the desirability of rearranging the order of Questions. This was the second occasion this week on which Questions to the Colonial Secretary had been put at the end of a long list, and there had been no opportunity of asking them.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: I am anxious to arrange the Questions to meet the convenience of the House. Last session a complaint was properly made that Questions addressed to myself were sometimes cut out. I think that the arrangement which has now been made, by which those Questions always come on, is for the general convenience. Recently a request was made to me that while the Army debates were going on the Questions addressed to the Secretary of State for War should come on at a time when they could be answered orally, and I did my best to see that arrangement was carried out. Now hon. Gentlemen complain that the Colonial Secretary, who used to occupy the position now given to the Secretary of State for War, should be put back in his place. It is difficult to frame a scheme to meet everybody's wishes. On certain days we might have the Irish Questions put last.

Mr. SWIFT MACNEILL: Leave them out altogether. Tell us to stand aside.

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR: They will all be answered on the Paper. The suggestion made to me will be considered. But it is obviously impossible, if as many Questions are put down as are at present being put down and as many supplementary Questions are asked, that every Question can be answered orally.

Mr. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): Extend the time.

Mr. MACVEAGH asked whether the Prime Minister was not invading the province of Mr. Speaker. Were they to understand that the Government arranged the order of Questions?

*Mr. SPEAKER: The matter is arranged amongst the Ministers themselves, but if any complaint about it is brought to my notice I have authority over the list.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. Halsey reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had added the following Fifteen Members to serve on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill:—Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. James Henry Campbell, Mr. Long, Mr. Field, Mr. Mooney, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Harrington, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Bond, Mr. J. F. X. O'Brien, Sir John Colomb, Mr. Thomas Herbert Robertson, Mr. Thomas Lorimer Corbett, Mr. Charles Craig, and Mr. Lonsdale.

Report to lie upon the Table.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Mr. HALSEY reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had discharged the following Member from serving on the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, in respect of the Trades Unions and Trade Disputes Bill:—Mr. Attorney-General.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

MERCHANT SHIPPING (SCOTTISH TRAWLERS) BILL.

"To apply sections four hundred and thirteen to four hundred and sixteen of The Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, to Scotland," presented by the Lord-Advocate; supported by Mr. Bonar Law; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 133.]

CONGESTED DISTRICTS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the provisions of The Congested Districts (Scotland) Act, 1897, as to the style and title of the Commissioners, the execution of deeds by them, and the application of the Fund constituted by the said Act," presented by the Lord-Advocate; supported by Mr. Cochrane; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 134.]

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (CHILDREN) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the hearing by Courts of Summary Jurisdiction of charges and applications relating to Children," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; supported by Sir John Gorst, Mr. Samuel Smith, Lord Edmund Talbot, and Mr. Tennant; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 135.]

CONSOLIDATED FUND (No. 1) BILL.

[THIRD READING.]

Order for Third Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read the third time."

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) complained that the House of Commons was unable to discuss the working of the great Land Act of 1903 owing to the fact that no information had been given as to its work. Last year they were told, not unnaturally, that the time had been so short that no real information could be given on which to found criticism, but now the Act had been in operation a year and a-half and it was not, he submitted, unreasonable to ask the Government to put them in the position of being able to discuss the matter. Already this session the matter had been raised on three or four occasions, but not once had they had any effective debate whatever. All these debates had been of a most ineffective and useless character, because they had not in their hands any adequate information as to how the Act was working. He did not make any complaint, of course, against the present Chief Secretary, who manifestly was not responsible, nor had he any desire to blame the other members of the Irish Government; but the position in which they found themselves was most improper and ridiculous. The House of Commons ought to be in possession of the facts which would enable it to discuss the question, and, in view of the possibility that the session might come to an early end, it was most important that this should be done without delay. All they had got at present was a certain list of figures giving the number of applications for sale, the prices paid, and so forth; but the preparation of this list would take more time than the preparation of a general Report, so that it could not be on account of want of time that they were left in ignorance of the principles on which the Act was worked, as to the directions in which the Commissioners were working, and as to why, in the Commissioners' views, the Act was not working satisfactorily in certain portions. He urged most strongly on the Chief Secretary, now that he had come to the fulfilment of his duties, that he should inquire into the matter and find out why the delay had taken place; and asked that before the end of the Easter holidays they should be supplied, first with the general Report of the Estates Commissioners, giving not only the figures, the amount of money, and so forth, but their comments on the working of the Act and their explanations of the principles on which they were working; and, secondly, with the regulations and instructions about which there had been a good deal of mystery and discussion, and which the Chief Secretary promised—it was one of his first acts—should be prepared and published in a simple manner as soon as possible. It was absolutely essential they should have these materials given them, and he earnestly pressed upon the Chief Secretary the necessity of losing no further time. A great deal of mischief had been done by the information having been withheld. He believed there was probably a great deal of misapprehension in both extremes as to the working of the Act; and this was inevitable so long as they were kept in the dark. What interest in the world could be advanced for withholding the information? Surely it was not in the interest of the Government, and it could not be in the interest of the Estates Commissioners. Was it that the staff was insufficient? This great Act had been working a year and a-half, and no Report whatever had been made. It was little short of a scandal, and he urged the Chief Secretary to free himself from any responsibility for it by insisting that the information should be in the hands of hon. Members before the House assembled after Easter.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said that to his mind the reason they had not had the Report was perfectly plain. Under Section 23 of the Act the Estates Commissioners could only issue a Report on instructions from the Treasury both as to the time of its presentation and its form; and in answer to a Question he had addressed to the Secretary to the Treasury it had been admitted that no representation was made by the Treasury to the Estates Commissioners with regard to the issue of a Report till February 28th. This was the reason they had not had a Report. They had been promised regulations, and these were important, but what was more important was that before they could know what was going on, they ought to have the instructions issued by the Estates Commissioners to their inspectors. The absence of this Report and of any debate in the House of Commons as to the working of the Act were most embarrassing and led to all sorts of mischief in Ireland. It was said that the Act was a failure, but he did not believe it. He thought it had failed in some important particulars, but he did not agree that there had been failure in a general sense. They could not, however, get out the facts until they had not only a full Report, but these regulations and instructions.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Walter Long, Bristol, S.) agreed that until they had the information asked for it was impossible adequately to debate the administration of the Land Act, and this, he also agreed, led to a good deal of misapprehension, for, through ignorance of what was going on, partisans on both sides came to conclusions which he thought were inaccurate. He had only been able to make a partial examination into the subject, but the little he had seen led him to believe that the Act was in no sense a failure, and he thought the information when supplied would substantiate this view. He had nothing to conceal at all. It was true that it was within the province of the Treasury to prescribe the time of the presentation of the Report and, what was much more important, the form the Report should take, but the Treasury, as far as he knew, was only actuated by the desire that the Report should be in accordance with what they believed to be the principle laid down in the Act, and he did not think there had been any delay. He regretted very much the absence of the information, but he would do his utmost to expedite its publication in every possible way. One of the first things he did on succeeding to his present office was to inquire both of the Estates Commissioners and his other advisers in the Department the cause of this delay and to press upon them the very great urgency of bringing the matter to an immediate conclusion.

He thought, however, that a year and a-half was too liberal an interpretation of the time the Act had been working.

MR. JOHN REDMOND: The right hon. Gentleman forgets that the late Chief Secretary promised Reports every six months.

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not forget, because I am not aware of it. Proceeding, he said it was conceivable that in passing a great Act of Parliament assurances might be made with confidence that they would be able to be carried out, but which, when it came to administration, they found could not be. This was probably one of the most complicated and difficult Acts that any Government had ever had to administer, and, after all, the Estates Commissioners could not get together the necessary information for their Report until they had been long enough in the saddle to arrange their procedure and arrive at a plan of how their work was to be done. He did not think there had been undue delay on their part. He believed they had now arrived at a time when they would be able soon to proceed to publication, and although he would not promise more than that, he would do everything in his power to secure publication of the Report before the end of the Easter holidays. He thought this result ought to be secured. It was impossible to justify keeping the House out of information essential to a discussion, which it ought to have, and which he desired it should have, because he believed that it would be in the interest not only of those responsible for the passing of the Act, but, what was more important, to the advantage and interest of the whole Irish population that the full power of the Act should be understood, that its method of administration should be understood, and that the relations between the Executive and the Estates Commissioners should be understood.

There were two sets of regulations, those issued by the executive Government to the Commissioners, and those issued by the Commissioners to their inspectors. The latter were ordered from the printer on March 20th, and he would take care they were laid immediately. He agreed that with regard to the other regulations it was undesirable that there should be any mystery; it was not only undesirable, but also unjust. The Act imposed upon the executive Government the obligation of issuing regulations for the guidance of the Commissioners, and it was obvious that if the action of the Commissioners were to be controlled by regulations issued by the executive Government, in fairness to them and in order that the House and the public might judge as to where responsibility rested, there should be no mystery about it, and that these regulations should be made public as soon as possible. The first thing he did on returning to London was to call for information as to these regulations. He had already considered them, they were now before the Estates Commissioners and the other members of the executive Government, and he had asked that they should be put forward with the utmost rapidity. He desired that they should be published as soon as possible, and, if they proved insufficient and required amendments, those amendments should be issued in the same form as the original regulations so that the House would be able to judge of the responsibility of action under them. He shared the view that a full knowledge of the subject was all important if they were to judge of the ultimate success or failure of the Act. He believed it would effect a great agrarian reform and that it would, if justly and wisely administered, bring great blessings of peace on the country as a whole. Therefore, he desired to do everything that could be done to facilitate its smooth and successful working.

*MR. JOHN CAMPBELL (Armagh, S.) said he rose to move the rejection of this Bill in order to call the attention of the House to the condition of the aborigines of Western Australia, as disclosed in the recent Report of the Roth Commission. The state of affairs depicted there was so appalling that no words of his were necessary to enhance it. He should use, therefore, the simplest and most pedestrian of phraseology, and promise that, as far at least as he was concerned, no undue heat would be imported into this discussion. Now, what was it that this Report contained? It indicated, in the first place, that the native population in Western Australia were living in a condition of slavery. He used the word advisedly. The males were compelled to work for the white men from the tenderest years without a penny of wages, and when they were incapacitated by old age or infirmity they were turned adrift remorselessly without the slightest provision being made for them.

As for the administration of the laws under which they lived it was the worst conceivable. Take the commonest offence with which these poor people were charged — cattle-killing — which constituted 90 per cent. of native offences. When a bullock was reported to have been killed anywhere, what happened was this. The constable went out into the bush with half a dozen police trackers armed with rifles and well equipped with chains and manacles for a purpose which he would explain later on. This force of armed men would surround the black encampment at nightfall and in the morning rouse up the whole assembly male and female. The former were taken into custody as prisoners. The latter were seized as witnesses against their male relatives. Both males and females were impartially put in chains, which were never once removed, day or night, whether travelling overland or wading through rivers, until the trial was finished. On the journey the evidence proved that the unhappy female witnesses—who, on the very face of it were not even accused of any crime—were systematically outraged by the police and their agents. Worse remained behind. The trial itself was the merest travesty of justice. The prisoners did not know the nature of the charge which was made against them. They were ignorant of the language even of the tribunal, and to them was given as interpreter the police boy. The latter was very often ignorant of the special dialect of the prisoners, and in any case he was never a safe medium. Through his agency the culprits who were arraigned conjointly in batches were usually prevailed on to enter a plea of guilty—a plea on which, according to the Criminal Code Amendment Act of 1902, any justice was empowered to inflict a sentence of three years hard labour. Consequently, they need not be surprised to hear that for a prisoner to escape was a thing altogether unheard of. In connection with this question it must not be forgotten that it was to the direct pecuniary interest of the police to bring in as many prisoners and witnesses as ever they could; for they were allowed conduct-money at the usual rate of 2s. 5d. per head per day, and as they could subsist the natives for a few pence a day they contrived to make a very handsome profit. And when the trial was over the young women witnesses, instead of being conducted back to their former place of residence, were turned adrift in the streets, the police pocketing the daily capitation grant for the return journey. Even while in gaol the prisoners were kept in irons. There was really no justification for this. All the gaolers confessed the practice to be unauthorised and illegal. The only attempt at palliation was the allegation that if not fettered they would escape. But if this was really true, then obviously the remedy was to build better prisons, the convict labour being ready and quite sufficient for the erection of proper houses of detention.

He desired to call special attention to the question of the children. The lot of these little creatures was a very sad one indeed. From the earliest age they were forced to labour for employers who gave them nothing in return—neither education nor wages. Was it astonishing that they commonly fell into evil ways—thievery or prostitution? The evidence of all the witnesses went to show that, if the children were to be saved, provision must be made for them in the way of orphanages and industrial schools. The pearl-shell fishery business also required special mention. The boats employed in this industry were for the most part unseaworthy. They were purposely never registered in order to escape inspection under the Merchant Shipping Act. Boys and women were taken aboard in direct contravention of the statute. Liquor and opium were carried without stint, and they were therefore prepared to hear that drunkenness and immorality prevailed all along the coast line.

And now, to substantiate these charges. He trusted the House would bear with him if he went briefly through some of the most important evidence contained in the Report under discussion. He would read to the House a few extracts from the Roth Report of December, 1904. Mr. Prinsep, chief protector of aborigines, was asked—

> "Can a contract be legally entered into without your knowledge?—Yes.
>
> "Can you prevent any Asiatic or European from being an employer under the Act?—No, I cannot.
>
> "Can you prevent the greatest scoundrel unhung from employing an aboriginal under contract?—No."

Absconders might be arrested on warrant. Employment without contract was the commonest form of service. The proportion of natives under contract to all actually employed was one in twelve. Many employers were objectionable but the police were powerless to interfere. The police were invoked to bring back runaways and this was quite illegal. The indentures were up to twenty-one and too long, and fourteen or sixteen would be better. They received no education. Inspection by justices was permissive, but never used. But all three forms of employment — under contract, without contract, or under indenture—were alike in the fact that no wages were ever paid.

John Byrne, sergeant of police, Broome, in his evidence was asked—

> "As far as you are aware, are any wages being paid under the contract system?—Not that I know of. I have never heard of anything more than clothes, food, and tobacco being supplied.
>
> "Have you any opinion of your own as to whether wages should be paid?—I do not see any reason why wages should not be paid. For instance, a settler has a station, and in the dry season all the surface water dries up. The cattle have to be watered from the wells, and he employs natives. If he could not get natives he would have to employ white men. I think it is a big advantage to the settler to have the natives, and they should have some wage."

Matthew Langtree, stockman, was questioned as follows—

> "How are the natives treated by the Kimberley pastoralists?—They have to work night and day, and all they get is a bit of clothing and a little food. They are only half-fed and half-clothed. It only costs about a shilling a week to keep them. When they get old and infirm they are allowed to lie down and die.
>
> "Have you been on the stations?—Yes. I have seen old men and women blind and helpless. There is no home for them. They die like dogs."

Nearly all the witnesses were unanimous that wages should be paid either (*a*) direct to the native or (*b*) to the Government to make provision for the indigent and infirm. The Commissioner supported the latter suggestion and proposed a minimum wage of 5s. a month on land, and 10s. a month on boats. The period of leave of absence to be also paid for. Blacks were also employed on municipal works. No wages were paid, save perhaps a bit of tobacco from the mayor. In the pearl-shell industry no wages were paid and the natives were sent out in unseaworthy boats.

Another witness, Walter John McKenna, Acting Sub-Collector of Customs, Broome, gave evidence as follows—

> "Are you responsible for the administration of the Pearl Fisheries Act?—Yes; as far as prohibited immigrants are concerned, and the shipping of men signing the ship's articles.
>
> "Can you stop any unseaworthy vessel from going to sea, whether registered under the Merchant Shipping Act or not?—I can only stop a vessel when she is registered.
>
> "How many of the 400 pearling luggers are thus registered?—I do not know.
>
> "Do you know anything about the Merchant Shipping Act?—No.
>
> "Why not?—Because we haven't got a copy of the Act in the shipping office, though we have made repeated applications to the Shipping Master, Fremantle. We have made four applications since last April."

Graham Blick, medical officer and acting R.M., Broome, was asked—

> "Is anything done to stop an unseaworthy boat from going to sea?—I have no power to prevent any old cranky boat from going to sea.
>
> "Do you know of anyone here who has power to stop any such boat going to sea?—No. If such a case did occur the matter would have to be dealt with by a special board.
>
> "Have you ever exercised your power as Resident Magistrate or justice for boarding a vessel to examine the stores in accordance with the Act?—No.
>
> "Do you know whether any of the other justices have exercised this power?—No. Two of the other justices are pearlers, but I do not think they have visited any but their own boats.
>
> "You have never satisfied yourself as to the quantity or quality of the stores carried on the boats?—No.
>
> "Is there any limit to the quantity of liquor that may be carried on these boats?—Not to my knowledge. It is a question for the shipping master."

Filomeno Rodriguez, pearler, of Broome, said—

> "I think some of the boats are unseaworthy.
>
> "You mean that they are a danger to human life?—Yes.

"Have you ever drawn the attention of the owners to such boats ?—Yes.

"To your knowledge has any action been taken on that information ?—No.

"As far as you are aware does any Government official ever inspect these boats to see whether they are seaworthy or not ?—No.

"If there were such a Government official would there be many boats that he would condemn ?—Yes.

"Is it to the interests of the pearlers that they should keep these unseaworthy boats in use ?—Yes. I think it is to their interest.

"In your experience have you ever known of a justice or a magistrate boarding your vessels and examining your stores, etc. ?—Once, in 1886; not since."

Native boys and women were taken aboard in defiance of statute. Liquor and opium were allowed to be carried in unlimited quantities and liquor was sold to the crews at 10s. per bottle for whisky, and 12s. to 15s. per bottle for gin. Drunkenness and prostitution prevailed along the coast line from La Grange Bay to the east shores of King Sound. Diseases and unspeakable vices were imported by the Malays, Japanese, and Manillamen. Cattle-killing constituted 90 per cent. of native offences. Why ? Because squatters shot the kangaroos; pastured their stock on all the watered portions of the run; destroyed the natives' hunting dogs, etc., etc. Arrests were made in crowds from pecuniary motives, as the following evidence clearly proves.

Mr. Skinner, J.P., Wyndham, said—

"What are the rations allowed per head per day to the police for prisoners and aboriginal witnesses' rations ?—2s. 5d. at out-stations and 1s. 6½d. in Wyndham.

"Having been here so long you must have a fair idea of the ordinary cost of living, have you not ?—Yes.

"Do you consider that the police make any profit out of this allowance ?—I do, of course.

"Why do you say 'of course' ?—It has always been a well-known thing. Everybody knows that they have made a profit out of it for a long time past.

"Have you ever kept a black here ?—Yes.

"What does it cost you on the average to keep him ?—I am feeding the one I have at the present time for 1s. per day, which pays for what he eats. He gets practically the same as I do myself. He is a cripple and the Government pays me 1s. per day for his support."

Questions were put to John Wilson, constable of police, Isdell River, as follows—

"Do you actually spend 2s. 5d. per day on each prisoner or witness ?—No; but each native has sufficient food.

"How could you make up 2s. 5d. per day for rations for a young female aboriginal witness, for instance ?—They have the same rations as the men.

"You say that they only receive flour, tea, and sugar, and that you kill kangaroo sometimes, and that they sometimes collect lizards and roots. I want to know how you can spend 2s. 5d. per head on each one ?—(No answer.)

"Do you mean to tell me that you are not in a position to state whether you make a profit on this 2s. 5d. which you are allowed for daily rations for these blacks ?—I make a profit. I do not lose anything by it."

Dodwell Browne, R.M., a district medical officer, Wyndham, was the next witness—

"Have you not felt often in dealing with these cases that there is something of an undercurrent of injustice meted out towards the natives in the way that they have been brought in without defence and with no opportunity of calling witnesses ?—I have. I have felt all along that they first of all do not thoroughly understand the charge against them. They do not understand the nature of the crime of killing a beast. I have done my best to give them justice in this Court and to give them the lightest sentence possible. I have had my judgments criticised in consequence. All these cases, in my opinion, are a huge source of revenue to the police. It is to their advantage to arrest as many prisoners as they can, whether they have killed or alleged to have killed the beast, because they get their maintenance per day for each man. This is too high and, as common report has it, the cost of one Winchester bullet for killing a kangaroo is about their true feed. The police also get maintenance for rations supplied to witnesses and their children, and they are supposed to escort discharged native prisoners after their time is up back to their homes, and the witnesses too."

William Goodridge, corporal of police, Wyndham, said—

"I consider that the police make a considerable profit out of the 2s. 5d. per head per day.

"Do you consider that this acts as a temptation for them to bring in a larger number of prisoners and witnesses than otherwise ?—I do.

Have you ever mentioned this matter to your chief ?—I have not, for the reason that I thought if the thing leaked out I might be looked upon as a black sheep if the other police found out that I had tried to cut down the rate for rations. I spoke about it to one or two."

As to the mode of arrest it could be effected either with or without a warrant upon verbal information or upon no information at all. They surrounded the camps at night and waited for daylight. The constables and black trackers were armed with Winchester rifles and chains for fifteen to thirty natives. One constable testifies that he once arrested thirty-three prisoners.

F. A. Hare, commissioner of police, in his evidence was asked—

"In cases of cattle killing, do the police arrest an aboriginal without warrant?—Yes, they do. A warrant is taken out in the first place if information is laid against certain aborigines, but when the police go out on patrol and an offence is reported, the offenders are tracked and arrested without a warrant.

"What method is adopted to prevent their escape from custody?—Chains are used.

"Are neck-chains used on Europeans under similar circumstances?—I have never heard of it.

"Have you any legal authority for using neck-chains on natives?—Authority is given in the Police Regulations.

> Regulation 647.—In escorting native prisoners, the practice of chaining them by the neck must not be resorted to except in cases where the prisoners are of a desperate character, or have been arrested at a considerable distance in the bush; or, when travelling by sea, they are near the land to which they belong, and it is necessary to adopt special measures to secure them. Even then the practice must not be adopted if it can be avoided.

"Have you any regulations as to the size or weight of these neck-chains?—No.

"To what is the neck-chain attached when the prisoner is escorted by a police officer who is mounted?—He would be fastened by the neck and arm and chained to the man next to him, and attached to the saddle only when absolutely necessary."

Robert Anderson, corporal of police, was asked—

"In escorting native prisoners do you use neck-chains?—Yes.

"What authority have you for using them?—I know no legal authority, but the chains are supplied by the Department for that purpose."

George Jeffery Scott, gaoler, Wyndham, gave evidence as follows—

"When blacks are brought in in chains from Hall's Creek, are they ever made to swim the rivers in their chains?—As far as I can find out from police and natives, the chains are never taken off them when crossing rivers and creeks.

"Is not this a great risk to life?—It is a wonder to me that they are not all drowned from what I hear of the state of the rivers in the rainy season.

"Do you know of any cases of blacks having been drowned in this manner?—Natives in past years have told me that several have lost their lives in crossing the rivers.

"When the police bring in prisoners to your gaol are they always properly clothed?—They are always naked, with the exception of the usual loin cloth. In the wet season it is very severe on natives travelling without clothing or blankets."

Chains were used also in prisons. Octavius Burt, Sheriff and Comptroller-General of Prisons was asked—

"Are neck chains used in prisons?—Yes.

"Are these chains used continuously during the whole length of the sentence?—Yes.

"Kindly let me know what is your authority for the use of them?—There is no legal authority. I can only say it is one of those things so universally adopted that it is never questioned. The practice has been in vogue for about thirty years or more I believe.

"Are neck-chains ever used for Europeans?—Not that I know of.

"You have no regulations as to the use of neck-chains?—None.

"Have you any regulations as to the weight and size?—There is nothing laid down.

The weights of the chains in use are:—Roebourne, from 2 lbs. 12 ozs. to 5 lbs. 14 ozs.; Broome, 2 lbs. 2 ozs.; Wyndham, 5¼ lbs. with Yale lock and everything complete.

"Has the chain a collar and padlock?—The chain encircles the neck and is fastened with a small Yale lock."

William Paterson, gaoler, Broome, on the same subject was examined as follows—

"Who supplies you with these chains? The Comptroller-General of Prisons.

"Do you use any 'up' and 'down' coupling chains?—No.

"If you did use such a chain the weight would be much less, would it not?—Yes. It would take a great deal of the strain off.

"Have you any authority for using neck-chains at all?—Yes.

"What is the nature of this authority? The nature of the authority is that I must place all native prisoners consigned to my keeping in chains.

"From whom did you receive this order?—The Comptroller-General of Prisons, Mr. Burt.

"When did you receive this order?—About the middle of last year, as near as I can tell at the present time.

"Do you mean to tell me that every aboriginal prisoner who comes here, say for a minor offence *e.g.*, absconding under the 'Merchant Shipping Act,' has to be chained?—Yes, according to the order mentioned.

"Even although the boy is fairly civilised, and perhaps educated and working for Europeans for years?—Yes.

"Is it ever mentioned in the warrant that aboriginal prisoners are to be chained?—No.

"Is it just custom and usage then?—Yes.

"Do you place neck-chains on any other than aboriginal prisoners?—No."

It appeared from the Report that the gaolers sometimes allege that the prisoners could not be kept in safe custody except by being chained. That was due to the fact that the prisons were not properly constructed. The use of chains could easily be abolished if the prisons were properly constructed.

The following was from the evidence of John James Pond, gaoler, Roeburne, who was questioned as follows—

"Is it ever mentioned in the warrants that the aboriginal prisoners should be kept in chains?—I have never seen it.

"Do you place neck-chains on any other than aboriginal prisoners?—No.

"Why not?—It is not necessary.

"The cells in which your aboriginal prisoners are confined are all stone, with iron bars to the windows and iron gates?—Yes. They are very substantial.

"Are these cells sufficiently strong to prevent escape?—I should say so.

"Are the neck-chains kept on the prisoners at night?—Yes.

"Are they fixed to the walls?—Yes. They are fastened to rings in the wall.

"If these cells are sufficiently strong, why are the chains not removed at night?—That I could not give you any reason for. If the chains were taken off, the prisoners might 'rush' the gates. Two officers are always on duty, and we would have to arm them. There are twenty prisoners in each cell. It would be possible to leave the prisoners chained together, but not cuffed to the wall.

"What do you mean by being 'cuffed'?—Attaching the end of the chain by a small handcuff to the ring in the wall."

The same witness was examined as follows in regard to split-links—

"When you first receive aboriginal prisoners at this gaol are the neck-chains fixed by single cuffs or by Yale locks?—Some have Yale locks and some have single cuffs.

"Are the neck-chains ever fixed by any other method?—Yes; by iron split-links. Two batches of prisoners from Wyndham, twenty in each batch, were fixed by this method.

"What was your method of opening these split-links?—By hammer and chisel, with the prisoner's neck placed on the blacksmith's anvil.

"Is not this a dangerous method?—Yes. In case of accident in transport, especially on board ship; if there was a wreck, every life of the twenty might have been lost. Even on shore if one prisoner had a fit it might prove too late to open a link.

"Does the escorting constable carry appliances to open such split-links in case accident should suddenly befall to any one of the batch?—I have never seen any.

"About how long did it take your warder to unloose each split-link?—Between five and ten minutes.

"That is to say, even with all appliances ready to hand, it would take a warder anywhere between one and a-half and three hours?—Yes.

"Did the warder find it a difficult job when he unloosened the split-links on the prisoners that came here?—Yes. I had to superintend and hold the chain while the officer opened the link with hammer and chisel. I was afraid it might injure the prisoners' necks; these prisoners had no proper necklets—all raw chains.

"Can you let me take possession of one of these split-links?—Yes.

"Did you draw the escorting constable's attention to such split-links being used?—Yes. I asked him why they were used. He did not know. Two of my warders were present."

George Jeffrey Scott, gaoler, Wyndham, was examined as follows—

"When you first receive aboriginal prisoners at this gaol from the police, are the neck-chains fixed by single cuffs, Yale locks, or split-links?—Some are fixed with patent split-links, some with both cuff and ordinary split-links, occasionally with cuff only. I think the cuff is only readjusted in the police yard to save time. It is mostly done with split-links.

"In case of a fall or a fit, is not the use of a split-link dangerous?—Very often. The use of the split-link is dangerous. Also the fact of the chain being too short is dangerous. If a prisoner fell he would be bound to drag down the prisoner on either side of him.

"How short have you noticed the chain joining two prisoners necks?—Twenty-four inches. I have remarked to the police that I have thought it much too short and was cruel.

"This Commission has been informed that in the majority of cases the witnesses for the prosecution are young women. Is that so?—In every case on the charge of cattle-killing the police have always brought female aboriginal witnesses.

"Young ones?—Yes.

"Have you ever drawn attention to the fact that these aboriginal witnesses are always young females?—No. I have always drawn attention to the fact that the witnesses are females."

Matthew John Langtree, stockman, gave the following evidence as to the chaining of witnesses—

"Are the women put in chains ?—Yes. This is done as a safeguard because they are witnesses against the male prisoners.

"Are the women witnesses ?—Yes, in the majority of cases. They are young women."

John Wilson, constable of police, Isdell River, was questioned as follows—

"Do you ever arrest the gins ?—Yes.

"Do you accuse them of cattle-killing ?—No.

"Do you arrest them as witnesses ?—Yes.

"Have you any legal authority to arrest these women as unwilling witnesses ?—No. Not that I am aware of.

"How do you detain them, with neck-chains ?—They are chained by the ankles.

"Do you mean that their two legs are chained together ?—No. I fasten the gin to a tree with a handcuff and then fix the chain to one ankle with another handcuff—one handcuff for each prisoner.

"Is it only at night that they are chained like this ?—It is necessary to detain them sometimes in the day when going through scrub or rocky country where they might get away. It is very rare that they have to be secured in the daytime.

"The Commission has received evidence that these witnesses are generally young gins or young children. Is that so ?—I have never brought in female children as witnesses, that is, what I have considered children.

"Have you brought in young women ?—Yes.

"Have you brought in old women ?—Yes.

"Is it true that more young women are brought in as witnesses than very old ones ?—I think there would be an equal portion of each.

"Do you allow your trackers or the assisting stockmen to have sexual intercourse with the gins whose relatives or friends you have arrested ?—They may do it without my knowing it.

"Do you take any precautions at night that these assisting stockmen or trackers do not have connection with the women when chained to the trees ?—No.

"Does such intercourse go on ?—I suppose it does. It could go on in the camp at night and I would know nothing about it.

"So far as you know, then, this sexual intercourse may go on with these female aboriginal witnesses ?—Yes.

"Do your trackers have sexual intercourse with these female aboriginal witnesses ?—I have never watched them. They might do so. I sleep at ease myself and never take any notice of these things. It would have caused trouble if I did."

When the witness was asked whether women who were wives and relatives of the prisoners were warned as to giving evidence he said he did not warn them about giving evidence against their husbands.

John Inglis, constable, was questioned as follows—

"Do they realise the harm that they are doing to their husbands ?—Not in the slightest. They do a lot of harm against their husbands, and do not know it."

John Wilson was questioned as to bringing evidence for the defence—

"Do you bring in any witnesses for the defence—No.

"Why not ?—It is not a customary thing in the district. I have never seen it done.

"This is rather a one-sided kind of justice for the black, is it not.?—Yes. I have never known it to be done since I have been in the district.

"You have admitted that some of these witnesses are relatives of the prisoners, have you not ?—Yes. They are all related in one way or another to the prisoners."

John Inglis, Constable of Police, Hall's Creek, was examined on this point as follows—

"Do you ever bring in any witnesses for the defence ?—No.

"Is not this a rather one-sided kind of justice for the black ?—It is in a sense. It is a queer country where I am. Every mother's son is guilty."

H. Mackenzie Skinner, J. P., Wyndham, was questioned as follows—

"Have they any witnesses for the defence ?—No ; never."

Mr. Prinsep, Chief Protector of Aborigines, gave evidence as—

"Is an aboriginal prisoner discharged from gaol without clothes ?—Generally, I believe.

"Do the police bring him into Court without clothes ?—Yes, as far as I know."

The evidence of Dodwell Browne, R.M. and district medical officer, Wyndham, contained the following—

"Do you ask the accused how he pleads ?—Yes.

"Through an interpreter ?—The interpreter generally asks how the man pleads, and the man answers to the Bench with gestures or in the usual pidgin and broken English.

"Who is this interpreter, as a rule ?—He is generally the police boy.

"How can you guard against this interpreter telling you a lie ?—In no way whatever.

"Does he always understand the language of the accused, or does he speak through another interpreter?—They are of different tribes, but from what I see I think they can understand pretty well the drift of what is said generally.

"Because the accused happens to admit or is made to admit that he has killed a beast, do you take such a reply to mean that he proposes to plead guilty?—The charge is explained as carefully as I can do it. They kill a beast on such and such a day at such and such a creek. If the man says that he kills such and such a beast I take it that he pleads guilty. I think, and have seen it, that a man will plead guilty now for killing a beast some time ago. The native cannot separate two charges on two beasts, and will still have the one offence in his mind. If he kills a bullock once he will plead guilty to every subsequent charge of killing a bullock no matter how often he will be charged with it.

"Do you believe that these wild blacks can be made to understand the scope of the meaning of the terms 'pleading guilty' or 'intent'?—I think very few of them do."

William Paterson, gaoler, Broome, was asked—

"Amongst the aborigines sentenced for cattle-killing whom you have shown me, and to whom you have spoken in my presence, how many do you think really understand what they are here for?—Not one of them, in my opinion."

If an aboriginal pleaded guilty to any offence not capital he might be sentenced to three years' imprisonment with hard labour. Ordinarily they were charged conjointly in batches. Prisoners were also cross-examined—a mode of procedure utterly alien from the spirit of English jurisprudence.

Mr. A. G. Woodroffe, manager, Adelaide Steamship Company, Wyndham, was examined as follows—

"Does the prosecuting police officer cross-examine the accused?—Yes.

"In 'pidgin' English?—In cases where the natives understand English he does it directly in English. In cases where the prisoner does not understand English it is done through the interpreter.

"Are you satisfied that the evidence of the aboriginal accused and witnesses is correctly obtained?—That is a hard thing to say. I do not understand the native language. There is no doubt in my mind that the native witnesses in many cases are not properly cross-examined. As a proof of that I can refer you to the depositions in the Courthouse at Wyndham, which will show that the questions put to all the natives are answered alike in every detail. They all have the same story.

"When blacks are accused of a crime you do not think they have a fair trial?—I am satisfied in my own mind that they never have a fair trial. If a native is tried for murder he is tried before the Resident Magistrate and committed for trial, and then the same Resident Magistrate is given a commission to again try the same case. It is natural that he will not direct the jury against his previous verdict. I can cite one case (the Teroney case) in which I was not a juryman, but I was interested because I offered bail, but it was not accepted because the Resident Magistrate had a personal animus against me. I attended the Court in this case, and the Resident Magistrate told the jury that if they did not bring in a verdict as directed by him it would not be just and right.

Mr. John Campbell.

"In most of these cases, then, do you think the blacks merely get the drift of the evidence, or do they really understand the evidence given against them?—I firmly believe that the blacks do not understand the charges that are brought against them."

Mr. Prinsep, Chief Protector of Aborigines, was questioned as follows—

"Are any cases of such a punishment as three years imprisonment on an aboriginal known to you?—Yes.

"For what?—One case of unlawfully wounding and several others of killing one head of cattle.

"Can you suggest any justification for a three years sentence on a black for killing cattle?—Yes. Unless severe sentences were given for the suppression of this crime, other and more unlawful means might be taken against the native."

"What do you mean by 'other and more unlawful means'?—Private suppression or by force of arms.

"In your opinion is not a three years sentence a terrible power to put in the hands of a justice?—Certainly."

William Paterson, gaoler, Broome, was examined as follows—

"You showed me one old man who was a cripple and practically blind. Is this man here for cattle-killing?—Yes. I have his warrant, which states that he with others pleaded guilty, that he did kill one cow, the property of Rose Brothers, at Isdell River, on or about the 12th day of April, 1904, with intent to steal the carcase. He received six months imprisonment.

"Have you reported the fact that this man is a cripple and almost blind to your chief?—I have.

"What made you report it?—The man's condition. I thought it behoved me to recommend that the Government remit the remainder of his sentence.

"Do you believe in long sentences on aboriginal prisoners?—No. I am opposed to long sentences for offences such as cattle-killing. On the other hand I have noticed of late that the sentences for this offence are not quite so long as they have been in former years."

The evidence of J. J. Pond, gaoler, Roebourne, contained the following—

"Do you believe in long sentences on aboriginal prisoners ?—I do not.

"Can you give me any reasons for thinking so?—I think that when they have been away from their homes so long they seem forgotten when they return. Their tribes will have very little to do with them. They often commit further crimes because their women have been taken.

"What do you consider the youngest ages of the prisoners you have here ?—Sixteen, fifteen, and fourteen years. These boys have been sentenced to two years imprisonment for cattle-killing."

G. J. Scott, gaoler, Wyndham, was questioned as follows—

"What do you consider the youngest ages of the prisoners you have at present ?—Judging by appearances, between eleven and thirteen years of age.

"What punishment have these children received ?—Sentences from six months to two years, with hard labour.

"What proportion of these aboriginal prisoners do you honestly believe know what they are in prison for ?—When I came here a great number of them were "Myalls," and their idea was that they were here for road-making. As they become educated the majority of them know that they are here for cattle-killing, as they come to gaol so often."

The young women who were called as witnesses were not sent home again. This was a contravention of the regulations. The police got the money for the homeward escort, put it into their own pockets, and turned the young women out into the streets.

The hon. Member said he would now read the evidence of two natives, giving in summarised form a description of the evils which prevailed in the administration of justice. Boodungarry was an aboriginal child, about fourteen years of age, undergoing in Wyndham Gaol a sentence of two years hard labour for alleged cattle-killing. Mr. Hartrick, secretary to the Commission, took shorthand notes, and compiled the following evidence in the form of a readable statement—

"I was caught by Jack Inglis and Wilson (policemen). Some others, named Manulla and Goominyah, were with me and other men. We were caught at the camp at Mt. Barrett. I had been working for a white man, but left and went into the bush. Wilson asked me if I killed cattle. I said 'No.' Wilson and Inglis then talked together, and they said they would shoot me. Inglis put a cartridge in his rifle, pointed it at me, and said he would burn me at a rock. It frightened me, and I then said I did kill a bullock. The first time I said I did not kill any cattle, but this time I was frightened when he said he would shoot, and I said I did kill cattle. He took me and some other blackfellows, who were also frightened. They all said they had killed a bullock because they were frightened. The policemen put handcuffs on our legs and hands. Two of us were chained by the legs. They then caught some more blackfellows—a big mob—and some gins, and took us away. Wilson got a gin and took her into a gully. I have seen Policeman Wilson 'marry' plenty of gins. We were taken to Hall's Creek. At the Courthouse I said nothing, because Inglis told me not to talk. Wilson hammered plenty of blackfellows with nulla-nulla. I do not know why he "wommered' [beat] them, but he frightened me and I did not talk in the Courthouse. The gins did all the talking. The magistrate only spoke to them. He did not ask me whether I killed a bullock."

Garngulling, a native about thirty years of age, undergoing a sentence also in Wyndham Gaol, for alleged breaking into a house, was examined apart from Boodungarry and said—

"Jack Inglis [policeman] caught me at the station when I was watering cattle for Ben. Cranwell. Inglis made me get off my horse and go with him. We left my horse at the house. The waterhole was close to Ben. Cranwell's house. I went away with Inglis. One day we came into a camp and all the black fellows ran away into the bush. Inglis asked where the black fellows were, and the police boy asked an old man, who said they had run away. Inglis did not chain me up, but gave me a ride on a horse. We met a wagon. Jack Inglis went into the camp, but there were no blackfellows. We met two gins, who said they wanted to go back to Hall's Creek. We saw tracks of two blackfellows and two gins and followed the tracks. They caught blackfellow Larry. Inglis asked me if I could find some blackfellows. I said there might be some in the creek, as I had seen tracks. We had dinner, and saw two police boys bring up one blackfellow, who was Larry. There were two gins in Inglis's camp. Inglis asked Larry if he killed a bullock belonging to Ben Cranwell. Larry said he did not, and that he came from Hall's Creek with a letter for Ben. Cranwell. Inglis said to Larry, 'Now, you tell truth. If you don't I will burn you in the fire.' I heard it with my own ear. Inglis said, 'I will shoot you.' Two gins sat down and said he killed cattle. They told a lie. Inglis said, 'If you don't tell me the truth I will shoot you.' He picked up the rifle. I saw him holding it in his hand. Larry said he only had kangaroo beef. We then packed up and looked for some more blacks, and got some, including little Tommy, and went into Hall's Creek. I have seen policemen Wilson and Caldow and Jim O'Brien 'marry' gins. [O'Brien was a constable, but has since left the service.] I have seen policemen sleeping with gins at night time. I have seen Caldow sleeping with gin Nelly, who is now working for the corporal at Wyndham. Blackfellows do not like the police. Sometimes on the road we have plenty of tucker, and sometimes nothing. Sometimes we have beef. Sometimes we have nothing for breakfast, nothing for dinner, and for tea we had some Johnny-cake. We were often hungry, and had only a little bit of tucker. Policeman would not let gins or tracker get any food. This policeman was named Wilson. We were chained to a tree and had no tucker. Policeman chained the gins by the leg at night time, so that they would not run away. I have seen Inglis put a chain on a gin at the 40-Mile, Ben. Cranwell's station [1522.] Sometimes policemen and sometimes police-boy shoot kangaroo for tucker. Sometimes police-boy gets a kangaroo, and takes a prisoner to help him. Gins get tucker from the policeman, but they don't give it to the black man."

Then he came to the subject of the distribution of the Government rations and blankets. The Report seemed to indicate that the Government did issue these things, but that the persons appointed to distribute them applied them to their own uses. The evidence on that point was as follows—

T. Houlahan, sergeant of police, Carnarvon—

"Have you ever caught the police charging for rations which they have not supplied?—I have. About three years ago (I cannot remember the exact date) a constable named Mercer, stationed at the junction, sent in an account for rations supplied to natives, which I knew from my own personal knowledge to be incorrect. I had seen the natives employed and knew that they were being fed by their employer. They were employed washing wool and picking locks at a shearing shed. After seeing that the natives were employed I waited to see what the constable would do. An account came in for rations supplied, and I fully reported on the matter through my department, but heard no more about it.

"Is it possible for such a thing to happen now?—Yes. It is possible for it to happen now, because I am not permitted to visit the upper station (junction) when I choose. It could happen at any time."

Mr. Ostlund, R.M., Marble Bar—

"In your opinion do those distributing relief to natives benefit by so doing?—I certainly think so, and I will read a communication I sent to the Aborigines Department on 18th June, 1900:—

> 'From my own observation I find that the old and infirm natives come for relief twice a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. On Thursday, the 14th instant, I weighed two lots of rations in the presence of Mr. C. H. Wilson, a Justice of the Peace, and found each to contain about 2 lbs. of rice, 2 lbs. of flour, and ¼ lb. of brown sugar. The natives inform me that they always receive the same ration. From a calculation of the local retail prices the cost of the ration is about half the allowance. I hardly think the rations supplied alone would be sufficient for their sustenance, but these are supplemented by the employed natives, who are very kind to the aged and crippled ones. The natives receiving relief appear to be fairly well nourished.'

"As far as I remember, I had a reply from Mr. Prinsep, in which he said that he did not object to distributors pecuniarily benefiting by the relief as long as it was within reason. I quote this instance to show that I have drawn the attention of the Chief Protector to the matter."

Mr. J. Langtree, stockman, said—

"I am certain the blacks do not receive the rations authorised by the Government."

As to the burial of these unfortunate aboriginals, the evidence of Mr. Prinsep, Chief Protector, was—

"Are prayers paid for at a burial?—No; unless the deceased was a recognised Christian.

"Have you ever paid for prayers at the grave?—I believe I have in some instances, although under protest.

"Do you consider that there is any necessity for prayers?—No."

There was only one bright spot, only one bit of pleasant reading in all this Report. It was the evidence of Father Nicholas, a Trappist monk, who seemed to have been to these aborigines what Father Damien was to the lepers in the Sandwich Islands. He established schools, orphanages, homes for the aged and the infirm, and accomplished all this at his own expense. Father Nicholas' evidence was as follows—

"Who pays for all this?—I do. I have given all I have. I have no more. And now for the first time after ten years work amongst these people, I am in debt to the amount of about £100.

"Do you mean to tell me that the Government has given you no pecuniary assistance?—Not a penny, so far. But the time has now arrived at last when unless the Government come soon to my assistance, I can no longer continue this expenditure which, though I have to admit it with a wounded heart (*le cœur navre*), will mean that I shall have to abandon all such sick natives to their fate. When Mr. Olivey travelled round here on behalf of the Aborigines Department, the Resident Magistrate spoke to him very forcibly on the necessity for giving some assistance to these blacks. Mr. Olivey promised to make the necessary recommendation to the proper quarters. I received only one box of medicines.

"Does any religious body give you pecuniary assistance in this good and noble work?—No.

"You are then dependent only upon the charity of the Broome public?—Yes.

"Where do you keep all these sick people that you have just mentioned?—With the exception of three of the worst cases (the amputated leg, the pleurisy, and the syphilitic) which I have here at the back of my premises in a tent and a hut, they are all at the Point.

"Where is this Point?—A headland, within the town boundary, where I have 10 acres, a very healthy locality and exposed to the sea breeze.

"Is there anything paid for this?—Yes. It is rented at £3 per year.

"Who pays this £3?—I do. It is my blacks' camp.

"Are there many old and infirm blacks in the neighbourhood of Broome?—Yes; I have often found them dying of hunger in the absence of a little care and kindness. Considering the many instances I have come across in Broome, how many must there be in other centres occupied by aborigines! I would suggest that all such cases, instead of being abandoned to their fate like dogs, should be collected into certain areas and looked after by some one friendly to the natives. But, for this, the assistance of the Government is essential."

He asked the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary what he proposed to do in this matter? Did he propose to to make any change in the constitution of the Protector of Aborigines? That gentleman seemed to have no legal *status*. Powers should be given to him to deal with children, in the way of sending them to schools and reformatories. All the witnesses were unanimous that the children ought to be fed, taught, and saved from thievery and prostitution. There were also the questions of supplying the natives with liquor and opium. A much heavier fine than at present should be imposed for the first offence. A second offence should be punished by imprisonment without the option of a fine. Most of all he urged the necessity of a speedy and drastic reform of the system which prevailed with regard to the administration of justice. To effect such reform it was surely unnecessary to wait for fresh legislation. These abuses were not so much owing to statutory defects. They were mainly administrative. The whole evil system of arresting and chaining both prisoners and witnesses in great batches for the purpose of securing the capitation fees, of forcing the prisoners to plead guilty at the muzzle of the rifle, of outraging the girl witnesses while in irons, of trying native prisoners for offences the very nature of which they were incapable of appreciating, of using the police boy as official interpreter in Court, of sentencing them to long terms of imprisonment, and of making them work out the whole period of their sentence in chains—all this could be amended by the vigilant supervision of the Executive, and without need for recourse to the Legislature. He had endeavoured to be as simple and concise as possible. If the facts set forth were correct—and he apprehended there was no one who would impugn their accuracy—then he confidently invited the House to condemn a state of things which was a disgrace to a British colony, and which would be a blot on even the most barbarous community.

SIR HARRY SETON-KARR (St. Helens) said he had had the opportunity of looking through this Report on the Condition of the Aborigines in Western Australia; and he was bound to say that the hon. Member was perfectly justified in bringing the matter before the House. Any one who spent half an hour in reading that Report could only come to the conclusion that this was a very bad case and ought to be dealt with by the proper authorities. He was aware that his right hon. friend the Colonial Secretary and His Majesty's Government were in a difficult position, because this was a question which affected the internal administration of a self-governing colony; but it was a question of wide and general interest. They had in another continent an example of what had happened in regard to the treatment of aboriginal races, and if his hon. friend had no direct power in this matter, it was just as well that the British public should not be ignorant of, and that British public opinion should be expressed on, the condition of things which had been described by the hon. Gentleman opposite. He should like to state to the House the terms of reference upon which this Commission was appointed. It was appointed by the Governor of Western Australia on August 31st last year. There was something significant in those terms of reference. The Commission consisted of one man, no doubt chosen because he was most thoroughly cognisant of the conditions of the problem, and the reference said that this Commission was appointed to consider the position of the aborigines in West Australia in respect of the allegations made when the Bill of 1897 was proposed. He could only think that the Governor must have had some information as to the state of things prevailing in regard to the natives conveyed to him, or he would have given less full power to the Commission.

He did not wish, in regard to this Report, to harrow the feelings of the House, but he should certainly like to refer to two points. The first was as to the manner in which these prisoners were compelled to plead guilty. The Commissioner reported that, with a view to justifying their action in bringing these men into court, the police naturally took care to be sure of their victims. Unfortunately, the Report went on to say—

> "The Criminal Code of 1892 put something of a weapon into the hands of the police. It really saves trouble to get the prisoners to plead guilty, and it enables the police to deal more rapidly with a large number of native prisoners, in respect of whom they get certain fees, and so, to secure convictions, the accused are made to plead guilty—at the muzzle of the rifle, if need be."

One was really reminded of some of the things which happened in the dark ages, and one could not help looking with wonder and regret on the mere possibility that such things could happen in the British dominions at the present time. The other question he wished to refer to was that of the failure of the Colonial Government to supply adequate native reserve territory. It might be said that part of the difficulty of remedying what was going on lay in the other difficulty of making a perhaps not very intelligent police force understand the best method of dealing with uncivilised natives. What the Commissioner said on this point was interesting and instructive. He said that a great responsibility rested upon the Colonial Executive in respect of the large amount of country which they were continually allowing to be taken up by British settlers without making the slightest provision for a land reserve for the natives, who were thus dispossessed of their hunting grounds. To raise cattle, the Commission went on to say in the Report, the kangaroo, which largely served the natives with food, was got rid of, and when kangaroos got scarce the unfortunate natives, whose standard of intelligence and of right and wrong was naturally not very high, were almost bound to commit crime in order to save themselves from starvation. In other words, they must either kill sheep or cattle which did not belong to them or they must starve. No doubt this, as he had said, was really a matter for the consideration of the colony, since it was a self-governing one, but he thought there was also some responsibility upon them, and, at all events, he was sure his right hon. friend would wish to seek some chance of impressing on the Colonial Government the desirability of giving these poor natives some chance of living in their own country. Much the same problem had presented itself in the Western States of America, but it was solved in a very different way, because when the Indians were conquered and the whites entered on possession of their territory large reserves were kept for them. That was the only way in which they could live, since the buffaloes which they used to hunt had been practically exterminated. If they had not been supplied with reserves they would have been face to face with the dilemma which they were now allowing the unfortunate aborigines of Western Australia to face. The same problem would probably face them for many years in Africa, and the only way he could see of meeting it was to arrange for the provision of more reserves on which these natives could live. In Australia, as he had said, they had no direct control, but he thought the question ought nevertheless to occupy the serious attention of the Colonial Government, and he thought, so far as was possible, public opinion in this country might fairly be so expressed as to stimulate action by the Government.

Might he, in conclusion, point to the conclusions at which the Commissioner arrived at the close of his Report? He admitted that in the areas over which the investigation had been made he was satisfied that the natives, generally, were not subjected to any actual physical cruelty, but said that wrong and injustice were taking place throughout those areas which could not, in his opinion, be longer either hidden or tolerated. Fortunately these wrongs were of such a nature, he added, that they could be dealt with by legislative action and by Departmental supervision, and he concluded with the earnest prayer, on the eve of his departure, that in the next Colonial Parliament the Bill of 1894 supplemented would become the Aborigines Act of 1905. There were redeeming features in the case—one was that an attempt was made on a former occasion to bring in a Bill protective of the natives, and the other was that the Governor of the colony seemed to have had his attention drawn to the matter at a more recent date, and that that led him to appoint the Commission. It should not be forgotten also that the Commissioner had only just reported, so that they might hope for the passing of the Bill, which was again on the stocks. He would only express a hope, in conclusion, that his right hon. friend would give the House some assurance that, so far as he was concerned, everything possible would be done to expedite a reform in this matter.

*Mr. **HERBERT SAMUEL** (Yorkshire, Cleveland) said the case presented by the two previous speakers appeared, from the Report of the Commission, to be only too well founded, and went to show that the old gloomy story of the treatment of aboriginal Australians by white men was still true in at least one of the Colonies. He only wished that the hon. Member who had brought the question forward had shown equal zeal for the natives of the Congo State, but by a strange inconsistency he happened to be the only Member of that House who hitherto had undertaken the defence of the Congo Government when its methods were called in question in the British Parliament.

Mr. **JOHN CAMPBELL**: The charges made last year against the Congo were vague and shadowy, based mainly on hearsay and not on substantial evidence. The Roth Report which he had been discussing was a legal, public document, upon which he invited the House to pass its opinion.

*Mr. **HERBERT SAMUEL** said that His Majesty's Government had sent the British Consul on a tour of inquiry in the Congo Free State, and it was on the revelations in his Report that their indictment largely rested. But, however that might be, the House had reason to be grateful to the hon. Member that night. He quite realised that the Government of West Australia and not the Colonial Secretary were responsible for what the Report of the Commission disclosed, but it was nevertheless well that it should be clearly known that there were many Members of the British House of Commons who felt most strongly on this matter, and who expressed a very ardent hope that early and effective steps would be taken to stop the discreditable proceedings that had been described.

He wished, however, to deal with another question. He did not know whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to a proclamation issued in Southern Nigeria in 1900. Under that proclamation the Governor was empowered to order a chief to attend to the cleaning out of any creek, and to call on the natives to do the work without, apparently, any pay, while any man refusing to help in the work was liable to imprisonment. That was a system of forced labour—a *corvee*—which he thought it undesirable to introduce into British Colonies, especially as it might with equal justice be applied in regard to the making of roads and railways, and he trusted that, unless the proclamation was qualified in some way in its administration, its withdrawal would be ordered by the Colonial Secretary. He also pressed the right hon. Gentleman for further information in connection with the Chinese labour question in South Africa—information which had been promised on various occasions. He specially wanted specific inquiry to be made into the report that white men were being dismissed from the Transvaal mines to make room for Chinese coolies through the substitution of hand-drills for machine-drills. He was assured that such displacement was taking place, especially in the Van Ryn Mine, and he also understood that a proportion of the white men who were ousted had the option of going back to work at a reduction of from twenty-five to thirty per cent. in their wages.

*Mr. **McCRAE** (Edinburgh, E.) said that on a previous occasion he raised the matter of the Transvaal loan. There were two points which he pressed on the attention of the right hon. Gentleman. One was in regard to the guarantee of the mineowners, and he desired to again press it on the attention of the right hon. Gentleman. The other was the question of the draft Ordinance which the Legislative Council had to pass before the thirty million loan could be issued and was also very important, having regard to the relationhips between the Colonial Office and the Legislative Council with reference to the loan. He thought he could put his case by quoting from two despatches. Sir Arthur Lawley, on December 7th, 1903, wrote that, not having heard from Lord Milner, he was anxious to know whether they were to pass the necessary Ordinance during the then ensuing session, and if so what should be the form of the Ordinance, having regard to the existing guarantee loan. To that the right hon. Gentleman replied on December 12th—

> "Referring to your telegram of December 6th, I fully discussed the issue of the first instalment with Lord Milner. I do not consider it desirable at present to approach the guarantors as to the terms of the issue, but I shall do so before long probably, and will inform you of the result. All necessary provision in respect of the guaranteed loan is made in the draft Ordinance formulated in my despatch of the 22nd August. The Ordinance should be passed exactly as drafted, otherwise marked difficulties might arise here."

Incidentally a very important point arose as to the question of the sinking fund. The mineowners stipulated that there should be no sinking fund. The Lieutenant-Governor, replying on the initiative of the right hon. Gentleman, said that a sinking fund was considered essential by the Executive Council. These were two points the House ought to bear in mind when discussing this matter. Another point was the view of the Boers in regard to the loan. At the Boer congress on May 23rd, 1904, a resolution was passed reiterating the protest of the deputation to the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham in January, 1903, against the placing of a thirty million war debt on the land before responsible government was granted. He desired to ask the Colonial Secretary whether he had conceded the wishes of the Boer Congress that no step should be taken with regard to the issue of the Transvaal loan until representative government had been granted; whether the Legislative Council of the Transvaal had really refused to pass the Ordinance to sanction this loan; or whether they had put before the right hon. Gentleman reasons which enabled him to come to the conclusion that in the meantime the loan should not be issued. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Bristol in the statement that the Government ought to have made an arrangement with the Legislative Council of the Transvaal at the time the guarantee loan was issued. That was the time to get the Legislative Council of the Transvaal to have passed the Ordinance sanctioning the loan. The Government did not do so, and the result had been that all negotiations had stopped since December, 1903. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would in his reply give some explanation as to this.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. LYTTELTON, Warwick and Leamington) said the hon. Member for Cleveland had not given him notice of his intention to raise the question of a proclamation in 1900 for the clearing out of creeks in Southern Nigeria. He was unable to deal with the question from memory, but he would make inquiries. As to the question of Chinese labour, he was in possession of Returns with regard to sentences, and he proposed to embody them in a Blue-book very shortly. A Report upon South African native affairs had been placed in the Library. With regard to the alleged displacement of white men by the substitution of hand labour for machine labour the facts were these. In a reef which was narrow it was undesirable to use the machine, because there was a danger that when the dynamite charges were placed in the holes drilled they would blow down not only the reef but also a portion of the roof which was incumbent on the reef. This was bad from the point of view of economy, because a quantity of rock became mixed with the ore and sifting was expensive, and also because there was great danger to the workmen. Therefore the use of machine-drills in narrow reefs was undesirable. They came into use to some extent during the time when there was a great shortage of native labour. That shortage was now being redressed, and the machine-drill was now only being used in reefs that were sufficiently broad. He was informed that the result was not to displace white labour at all. That was merely the *dictum* that he had received from authoritative sources in South Africa, and before he made himself a party to it he should wish to see the exact figures.

Sir GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said that white labour was intended to be merely temporary in these mines, and it was intended, as soon as native and other labour could be found, that the white labour should be replaced.

*Mr. HERBERT SAMUEL asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he was aware that during the time of the shortage of labour the mine-owners used every effort to secure the elaboration of a small stope machine for the purpose of meeting these difficulties instead of employing white unskilled labour, and whether that attempt had been abandoned.

*Mr. LYTTELTON said he had not heard of the attempt suggested by the hon. Member. With regard to the points raised by the hon. Member for Edinburgh in connection with the Transvaal loan, the matter now stood in this position. A sinking fund was obviously desirable in the case of such a loan, and the desirability was pointed out by him to the guarantors. The assent of the guarantors to the creation of a sinking fund was given in January, 1904, provided that there was no diminution of the interest. The Government had to take great care in dealing with the terms of the guarantee, as any variation of the terms might have released the guarantors from their obligation. When he first went to the Colonial Office, and was not very familiar with the question of the loan, he hoped to raise the first £10,000,000 in January, 1904, according to the promise which had been given and had never been receded from by the underwriters. But it was expressly understood that this loan should not be issued at a time of unfavourable market conditions, and by January, 1904, it had become apparent that the market conditions were very unfavourable. That condition of things continued throughout a considerable portion of 1904. The time went by in which this loan could be issued, and in the ordinary course the condition precedent to the issue of the loan—namely, the passage of the Ordinance—also lapsed. He understood the hon. Member to ask whether it was not desirable now to obtain the Ordinance from the Legislative Council. What he desired on behalf of the Government was not to press this subject upon the nominated Assembly. He had admitted that the money market was now favourable, and the guarantors were willing and anxious that the loan should be issued. But the Imperial Government thought that it was desirable, not only in the economic interests of the mother country, but also in a high degree politically, that the representative Assembly should take this obligation upon themselves. For that reason he had not proceeded with the Ordinance, or asked the unrepresentative Assembly to sanction it, which would be the necessary step if the loan were to be issued at the present time.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said the money market was favourable now.

*Mr. LYTTELTON said if the market conditions were favourable the guarantors were equally willing to adhere to the conditions of their underwriting. He did not know whether the prophecy of the hon. Member that representative Government would not have come into being until the present Administration had gone out of being was an anticipation of gloom or of hope, but he was afraid it could not affect the question. If he understood the debate aright, even the hon. Member's own side—he might quote the right hon. Baronet the Member for Berwick and the senior Member for Oldham—agreed that the loan should not be enforced by the high hand of a nominated Council, but that they should wait until representative Government had come into being. He further understood the hon. Member to say that the Boers had protested against this obligation being undertaken in any form by the colony until the fullest self-government had been granted. That was no part of any understanding, expressed or implied by His Majesty's Government, and they wholly declined to accept such a conclusion.

*Mr. McCRAE asked whether any opinion had been expressed by the Legislative Council with regard to the issue of the loan, altogether apart from the question of the £10,000,000 and the favourable opportunity.

*Mr. LYTTELTON said that no opinion had been given by the Legislative Council on that point. The correspondence which took place between His Majesty's Government, Lord Milner, and Sir Arthur Lawley was strictly confidential, so that he had not been able to lay it on the Table of the House, but no communication had passed between the Home Government and the Legislative Council on that point.

With regard to the subject brought forward by the hon. Member for South Armagh, after a very full analysis of quotations from the Report which had been made, it was unnecessary for him further to elaborate the matter. No one who had read that Report could possibly say that the state of things there revealed was not wholly deplorable. Nobody could defend such a condition of affairs or read of it without a feeling of great abhorrence. But hon. Members would remember that they were dealing with a self-governing colony which as regarded its internal affairs was substantially independent. A measure had been brought forward in the Legislative Council of that colony dealing with this matter. But he was informed that the Government of Western Australia desired to make perfectly certain of the facts—more precisely certain of the exact nature of the deplorable state of affairs which had been brought to their notice—and they appointed Dr. Roth, a thoroughly efficient and independent man, to inquire into the matter. On December 29th they received from him the Report which had been so largely quoted, and that Report reached the Colonial Office on the 23rd of this month. He had written a despatch and also cabled to know in detail what were the precise intentions of Colonial Ministers, but he had not yet received a reply. He understood that this Commission was appointed in order that full legislation might be brought forward in 1905, and he entirely identified himself with the hope expressed by the Commission that the legislation brought forward in 1904 would, with the additions recommended in the Report, become an Act of Parliament in 1905. He expressed the obligations of himself and the House to the hon. Member for having brought forward this matter, which it was obviously desirable in the interests of all should be made public; but he wished particularly to guard himself against admitting that the Australian Government were not conscious of the evils which existed or not desirous of dealing with the matter with thoroughness and expedition.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON (Tower Hamlets, Poplar) fully endorsed the concluding remarks of the right hon. Gentleman, and said that while it was perfectly obvious that in such a matter the authorities at Downing Street had no control over the self-governing Colonies, it was of advantage that public opinion in this country should be expressed, not for the purpose of reflecting in any way on the Colonial Government, but with the hope that it was in accord with British views and that it would thereby be strengthened in the carrying out of proper reforms. With regard to the Transvaal loan, the right hon. Gentleman had once more repeated, as though it was an answer to their contention, that he could not see his way to press or force upon the Legislative Council, just when some extension of representative government was to be made, an Ordinance recognising the obligations of the Transvaal in regard to this loan. Every Member of the Opposition who spoke in the previous debate agreed that it would be a great mistake to do anything of the sort under existing circumstances. Obviously the loan could be issued only when the market was favourable, and the Ordinance could not be forced through the present or any other Legislative Chamber against its will. But the point raised by his hon. friend was that the House gave its assent to the £35,000,000 loan on the absolute condition that the £30,000,000 loan should be issued at some time, and the then Colonial Secretary said that an Ordinance would be at once passed by the Legislative Council giving a legal recognition on the part of the Transvaal of their indebtedness in that respect. The question was, why was not that Ordinance passed in 1903, which all agreed could not be asked for now? It was most unfortunate that it should not have been passed then, as the question would not now have arisen in connection with the change in the form of government, but the right hon. Gentleman had given no explanation whatever of why the Ordinance had been hung up for two years. With regard to the alleged substitution of Kaffir and Chinese labour for white labour, he understood the facts were not denied.

MR. LYTTELTON made an observation which was inaudible in the Press Gallery.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON understood the right hon. Gentleman to admit that under certain conditions there had been a substitution, but that on the whole there had not been a diminution of white labour. In the particular mine referred to, it was not the case that the white labour which had been removed was temporary labour. He understood that it was permanent labour, and that it had been displaced simply because of the alteration in the system under which Kaffir and Chinese labour was substituted for white labour. He did not doubt that the Colonial Secretary was under the impression that no such substitution had been made. Those who had considered the figures given at the beginning of last year before Chinese labour was brought in, must have come to the conclusion that, compared with the former proportion of white to coloured labour, there had been a very considerable substitution of Kaffir and Chinese labour for white labour in connection with the mines both above and below ground. The latest figures showed that, since the advent of the Chinaman, white labour in the mines had only increased by 2,000, and even some proportion of that was due to work anticipatory of the advent of the Chinese. There were something like 50,000 more natives and Chinese, that was, 20,000 natives and 30,000 Chinese in the mines. Upon those figures, instead of there being an increase of white labour of 2,000 there should have been an increase of 8,000 or 10,000, as an influx of 50,000 unskilled labourers ought to have led to a proportionate increase in the employment of white labour, but the old proportion of white to coloured labour there had disappeared, and that would have more than accounted for the increase of 2,000, so that practically there had not been a single additional white man employed because of the importation of Chinese labour. The real fact of the matter was that before the influx of Chinamen there was great pressure upon the mineowners to use white labour and they employed white labour. The whole of that pressure had now disappeared, and naturally they now were employing a far smaller proportion of white men to unskilled labourers than before the influx of the Chinaman. Would the Colonial Secretary try to find out how far white labour had been displaced, in what way, and whether there were at the present moment as many white men employed in proportion as there were before the importation of the Chinese? He appealed to the right hon Gentleman to state whether the time had not come when some limitation ought to be placed upon the influx of the Chinaman. When the Colonial Secretary got the House to consent to the Chinese Ordinance, he did so on the ground that there was a deficiency of 30,000 unskilled labourers. Now he had not only got 30,000, but 50,000. They had seen how the experiment was likely to operate, and he thought the right hon. Gentleman might very well now say whether he intended placing some limitation upon the influx of the Chinese instead of allowing the mineowners to introduce as many as they like. He should also like to know when they would have placed before them the letters patent of the new Constitution. Would the right hon. Gentleman inform the House whether they were likely to have this information before Easter.

Sir GILBERT PARKER said that in the case of a number of mines in the Transvaal the mine proprietors employed a very considerable number of whites for working drilling machines temporarily in order to tide over the time until, with greater safety, they could employ the hand-drill in the unskilled hand of the Chinaman or the Kaffir. With regard to the employment of white men in the mines the hon. Member for Poplar had acknowledged an increase of 2,000. A few weeks ago he gave the figures for one mine, which showed that there had been an increase of 275 white men in that particular mine. Of that number seventy-five were employed upon buildings and construction, and therefore 200 extra white skilled workers had been employed in that mine since the Chinese were brought in. At the first glance the importation of 30,000 Chinamen and Kaffirs and the small increase of white men might appear somewhat startling, but what were the facts? In the mines, as every business man knew, in order to keep the organisation going a certain number of men must be employed. In the Transvaal, in spite of the opinion that had been expressed by a good many hon. Members, who seemed to think that the mineowners were entirely selfish, he wished to state that there had been upon the part of the mine proprietors a deep sense of their responsibility in regard to the employment of white labour in the Transvaal, and he knew that in many mines white men were kept on when there was practically very little to do; and they were employed, exactly as the hon. Member for Cleveland had pointed out, for this particular work of drilling by machinery which was neither suitable for them or for the mines. There had been an increase of 50,000 Chinamen and Kaffirs, but he wished to point out that the proportion of white men in the mines to the amount of production before the introduction of Chinese and Kaffirs was not according to the necessity, and until sufficient Chinamen and Kaffirs had been brought in to establish things upon the ordinary basis of production, there could not, of course, be a very large increase of skilled white labour. Of course as soon as the balance was got then the increase of skilled white labour would be very considerable, in the proportions pointed out by the Colonial Secretary in his previous speeches in the House. It had been stated again and again in the country, most inaccurately, that the proportionate increase of skilled white workers to the proportion of recruited Chinamen was not according to the information given by the Colonial Secretary and others who had spoken on the question in relation to the mines. Until the numbers of Kaffirs and Chinese properly balanced the number of men kept on, men who were unnecessary for the mine when there was not sufficient work, until that balance was got, there could not be as large an increase as would probably be anticipated. That time had almost arrived. A number of the white skilled workers kept on hitherto without sufficient work had now got, sufficient work, and the hon. Member for Poplar, in suggesting that this increase of 2,000 in white men employed represented largely men employed in construction, was inaccurate.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON said he did not make that statement. What he said was that they had no information to go upon because the Colonial Secretary had been unable to give them any. They had been informed that the proportion of these men employed upon buildings and construction was probably about 25 per cent., and upon that calculation they would have to deduct 500 men from the 2,000 alluded to.

Sir GILBERT PARKER said that probably a good number had been employed upon construction, but those men were being absorbed, and would be absorbed when construction ceased by the ordinary skilled work in the mines. The whole tendency now was towards an increase of skilled workers rather than the decrease which existed before the introduction of the Chinese. He could only give his own impression upon this point.

Perhaps he might be permitted to say a word or two in connection with the question raised by the hon. Member in regard to the Transvaal loan, not from the standpoint of those who had already spoken. The other day he listened with interest to the speech of the right hon. Gentleman opposite, who spoke with great feeling and with great wisdom from his large public experience, upon their relations to the colonies which they had lately acquired, and he said that they could afford, if it were a question of closer union with this country, to forego that £30,000,000 loan in order to accomplish a closer identification of those colonies with this country. He might be allowed to say something with regard to his own experience. Before he went to the Transvaal he heard that public opinion there and in the Orange River Colony was against the placing of the loan. There was in their mind an impression that the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, like some South American Republics, might repudiate the bargain. This was said once or twice by gentlemen whose opinions he rated highly, they having had large experience in Colonial matters; but when he went to the Transvaal he came to the conclusion that the £30,000,000 should be placed. He believed the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony should bear that burden. He believed that all reasonable pressure should be put upon them by the Government. He was glad to say that the invariable reply to many hundreds of inquiries he had made, not among irresponsible people and not among mine-owners only, as to whether they meant to repudiate the debt, was that if it meant ten, fifteen, or twenty years they intended to keep to their bargain. All responsible British people in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony approved of the loan and would be ready to bear the responsibility. The hon. Member for East Edinburgh was quite wrong in supposing that there was a feeling against it in the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony, and that there might be a strong desire to repudiate such a debt of honour.

MR. McCRAE: Perhaps the hon. Gentleman will allow me to say that I did not make any such suggestion. I asked whether the Legislative Council might not repudiate it.

SIR GILBERT PARKER begged the hon. Gentleman's pardon. He understood him to say that there was a strong feeling against it in the Transvaal. There was, however, and naturally, a feeling among their Boer and Dutch fellow-subjects there against it becoming a charge upon the future of the country. He thought they could understand that. The country was a hard one to live in, and the Boers were an agricultural people, and any heavy charge upon the land would be a severe handicap upon them. He sympathised with them, and he thought they all did in this matter. The leaders of the people, however, were unnecessarily fearful of this being made a burden upon the land. It would not fall upon the land; it would fall upon those whom hon. Gentlemen in the House thought should properly bear it. Those gentlemen who were so often criticised in the House would, if it were a question of honour, take the whole burden upon themselves, if necessary, in order to clear themselves from any reproach by the people of this country. It would, he thought, be a dangerous thing to say that this country was quite willing not to press the matter and to forego the loan. It was in human nature to accept freedom from debt if it were offered, and it would, to his mind, be most undesirable to suggest: "Well, you are hard up; we will not press you; you need not pay the loan." We should be injuring that country instead of benefiting it, because self-reliance, self-dependence, and honour necessarily, and pre-eminently necessarily demanded in this case that the debt should be paid even if it took twenty years. It was a question which the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony must face, not only in our interests, but in the interests of their own nationality.

Referring to the question of the treatment of aborigines in Western Australia, the hon. Member said he was extremely glad the House had taken a temperate view on this question. Anyone who had lived in a colony for any length of time knew how sensitive the people there were. When they saw facts crowded into a Report like that quoted it was too dramatic. They had the whole thing concentrated in a fashion which was apt to mislead the judgment. There was a previous agitation on this question, and the House would remember that most of these unfortunate acts on the part of officials, police, and others were the results of a series of reprisals upon both sides. In the old days of Queensland there was not a squatter that was safe, and if the West Australian Government punished severely there was good reason for it; for sometimes the stealing of horses or the killing of cattle practically deprived the people, who were far from railways and means of locomotion, of the means of livelihood. In dealing with native races, and particularly with a race so low down the scale of intelligence as the aborigines of Australia, methods sometimes severe and often cruel were used, but the Government must not be blamed; the blame rested very largely upon individual people far removed from the control of law in a sparsely settled country. A responsibility was thrown upon the individual in such a country which was not thrown upon him where millions of people were concentrated and where the supervision of conduct could be better maintained. He thought the Australian Government would act more strongly because of the sympathetic pressure discussion in that House was sure to produce, and, suggested that they should not grow too sentimental over even such a state of things as had been decribed. He expressed the opinion that the Australian Government would act with even greater promptness than our Government would act.

Sir ROBERT REID (Dumfries Burghs) said that if they discussed from time to time the question of South Africa it was not—at least on his part—from the smallest desire to embarrass the Government in their duties in relation to that country, and still less was it their desire to throw blame on the Colonial Secretary, who had had imposed on him by inheritance a task as difficult as any statesman had been required to undertake in his recollection of public life. The reason why they ought to dwell to a certain extent on these things was that the House during the last five or six years had been constantly misled by the information which came from South Africa. The Press there, as was perfectly well known, was mainly in the hands of the mineowners, and we did not get, and had never got, true statements of facts from South Africa. We did not know, except from private sources, of the destitution and misery there was in South Africa, of the sufferings which the white people had gone through, or of the many people who, having gone out there in the vain hope that they would succeed, had had to return. The information which came in private letters, and through other sources, was that the country was in a very serious condition financially and socially. He was not speaking now about Chinese labour. Therefore, it became incumbent on the House to dwell on these matters more or less. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down gave the expectation that there would be more white people employed in the Transvaal at some future stage. It had always been "in the future." They were always to be blessed; they never were blessed. Not one of the expectations held out in regard to that country four or five years ago had ever been fulfilled. There had never been an instance in recent history of such a constant succession of vain hopes held out as to the predicted relations between the coloured and the white population in the Transvaal. He would believe those predictions would be verified when they were verified. The soldiers who went out to this Golconda were to find employment and settlement. That was on the placards inviting Volunteers.

What happened? Many of these men went out to stay—but not in the usual sense applied to an emigrant; and others had to come back disappointed to this country after risking their life in the war. The whole thing had proved an utter failure. There was to be an agricultural military colony. That was dealt with in a Special Report by the present Secretary for War who went into the history of various military colonies from the time of the Romans downwards. The whole thing had ended in some 500 or 600 heads of families being settled in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony together. Hardly any of them had gone with their families, and a great proportion of them had since left the place. That settlement had cost this country from £1,200 to £1,500 per head of family who had settled there. They could not go on colonising a British white population in the Transvaal when each head of family cost from £1,200 to £1,500. This expense was primarily drawn from the resources of the Transvaal, but the great part of it had been paid for out of the £35,000,000 loan which had been guaranteed by this country In addition to that, he had discovered that upwards of £20,000,000 of our funds had been spent in the Transvaal during the two years since the war. How much more had yet to be traced? Then, there was the irrigation scheme. A most elaborate Report, approved by Lord Milner, recommended the expenditure of £30,000,000 on irrigation, which was one of the things that was to bring wealth to and develop the agricultural resources of the Transvaal. He believed irrigation was a most excellent thing, especially in such a country; but they had never heard anything more about it.

Then, there was the debt of £30,000,000 that was to be repaid. Originally it was to be £170,000,000; in fact, enthusiasts spoke of the whole cost of the war being paid by the Transvaal. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh!"] Yes; that was the burden of their song. Then it was to be £100,000,000; next £50,000,000, and lastly it came down to £30,000,000, But the £30,000,000 had not been paid, and he thought rightly because, as the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary had said, the equilibrium between expenditure and income had not yet been established. In other words, the Transvaal could hardly pay its own way. Here he would correct the hon. Gentleman opposite who seemed to think that he had said that, on the ground of sentiment, the debt of £30,000,000 due by the Transvaal should be forgiven. He had never put it on that ground. He was one of those who believed in maintaining the greatness of this country and the bonds of union between us and the Colonies. He sincerely desired to be just, not only to the Colonies but just to ourselves. When the Estimates for the Army and Navy were looked at, he thought there was no risk of our being unjust to the Colonies, but that a great risk was run of being unjust to ourselves. No one could see any real prospect of this money being paid or this debt being undertaken by the Transvaal, and, therefore, it should be dismissed from our minds. He might be wrong. He should like to see those who fomented the war made to pay the whole of the debt; but it was impossible, from the nature of things, to say that a population of 300,000 could take on the burden of £35,000,000 for a loan and the £30,000,000 debt besides. He believed the Government were right not to press for the payment of the debt of £30,000,000, although he was not advocating any generous abandonment of it. But they ought to face facts, and not live in dreamland. He did not, however, imagine that there was any real prospect of getting it at all.

Then they should remember the expectations of freedom being established in that country for which we went to war. Why, under the Ordinance issued two or three years ago—an Ordinance as autocratic as any ever issued in Russia—the Government of the Transvaal were enabled to put a man out of the country within twenty-four hours, without previous notice or explanation; and to arrest and keep a man in prison for three weeks without warrant or bringing him before a magistrate. He was quite sure such rules were as objectionable to the sentiment of the Colonial Secretary as to himself. The only other matter on which he wished to refer was the treatment of our Indian fellow-subjects. One of the grievances for which we went to war with the Transvaal was the unmerited and abominable treatment of these Indian natives when they went peacefully to that country. It was not disputed that the restrictions on our Indian fellow-subjects were now greater, or at least quite as strict, as during the time of the South African Republic.

*MR. LYTTELTON said that a judgment had been pronounced by the Transvaal Supreme Court in either May or June last, which gave liberty to British Indians to trade. That was one of the objects sought, and sought in vain, from the old Transvaal Government by his predecessor and by the Indian Government. That judgment stood, and British Indian colonists had a licence to trade as a right. That was a substantially better position for them to be in than they were before the war, a position against which this country protested.

SIR ROBERT REID said he was very glad to hear that. His information must be belated, and the recent judgment must have escaped his knowledge. Was he to infer from the remarks of the right hon. Gentleman the Colonial Secretary that he was now satisfied the grievances of our Indian fellow-subjects had been removed? It was one thing to say that a grievance on a particular point had been put right; but another thing that all their grievances had been removed. He was certain that the position of our Indian fellow-subjects in the Transvaal was still a subject of dissatisfaction to the Government at home and had been the subject of remonstrance. If he was wrong he would say nothing further, but he believed he was right in saying the position of the Indians in the Transvaal was not satisfactory. He would not, however, labour the matter further, beyond expressing the opinion that it was our duty to keep a constant eye on what was going forward in South Africa. The true remedy would be the granting of responsible government, and until that was granted we should keep our eye on what went forward and not confine ourselves so closely to the one question of Chinese labour as to shut our eyes to all the other things that were constantly going on against the interest of the Transvaal and ourselves.

MR. SPEAR (Devonshire, Tavistock) raised a question which he said closely affected a large number of his constituents. He hoped that if the Admiralty persisted in a large reduction of men in the dockyards they would accomplish that reduction as gradually as possible, and thereby minimise the sufferings of the labourers and avoid the disorganisation of labour generally in the particular districts. He recognised the importance of economy, and ventured to submit that the reduction of shipbuilding necessary in the interests of economy should fall on the private yards rather than on the dockyards. He fully recognised the importance of the Admiralty keeping in touch with the private yards and giving them a part of the work so that in times of crisis they should have a larger field in which to deal with the requirements of the Navy. But it was important, in the interests of the Government and the country, that our dockyards should be considered as the first source of supply both of new construction and repairs. All must recognise the importance of attracting to the dockyards the best workmen of all classes, because if there was a reduction in those workmen the *status* of the men would be lowered and the Navy would suffer in consequence. It was sometimes asserted that ships could be built cheaper in private yards than in the dockyards, but that had not been conclusively proved, and he did not believe that dockyards, carefully supervised and well managed, could not effectively produce ships and carry out repairs. This was a matter of very serious consequence to a large number of his constituents, and he appealed to the Secretary of the Admiralty to ensure that where a reduction was necessary it should fall rather upon the private yards than the dockyards, and thereby maintain the efficiency of the Government yards.

The hon. Member also referred to the question of remounts or the Army, and stated that two years ago he suggested the importance of bringing into closer touch the buyer of Army horses with the breeder. They all knew the difficulty experienced during the late war of procuring the requisite number of horses. The advent of the middleman was bad both for the country and the producer. He suggested that the representatives of the Army should nominate a veterinary surgeon in each district to make a register of horses suitable for Army purposes. Then a central place should be arranged to which the horses could be brought for inspection by Army buyers. This was a matter for consideration because the question of the native production of Army horses in the country was becoming a serious one. With the advent of motor-cars there was a lesser desire to breed horses than before, and unless breeders were brought into direct communication with Army buyers there would be great difficulty in obtaining horses at all in the future.

*MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W) drew attention to the administration of the Education Department. He asserted that the Act of 1902 was acknowledged by educationists on both sides of the House to be disappointing in the provisions made for the system of secondary national education, and, therefore, they were not surprised to find that progress under the Act had also been disappointing and left much to be desired. He would not have raised the question but that he felt that the Board of Education was to some extent responsible for the slow progress that had been made. The Board of Education some time ago issued regulations which dealt with some very important matters. First of all they apparently desired to prescribe a high minimum fee; they further wished to limit to a certain extent scholarships, and to establish a separate set of governors for these municipal secondary schools. Those interested in the spread of secondary education found a serious barrier to progress in these regulations. In the first place they aimed a blow at what seemed to be one of the main features of the Bill, that of co-ordination between elementary and secondary education. The idea that the Secretary to the Board of Education should give large powers to headmasters of schools, separate from the authorities of the district, was in itself a serious disadvantage, as it was regarded by the authorities as a desire on the part of the Government to set up something in the same line as the existing grammar schools. He was glad to acknowledge that the fresh circular letter which had been issued to some extent minimised the evils they saw in those regulations, and he believed that the circular had been issued in deference to widely expressed opinions of the authorities. The hon. Member desired an assurance that the spirit of that circular would not only be adhered to by the Department but that its scope would be considerably widened. Other circulars issued by the Board of Education had been partially withdrawn owing to the guiding hand of the private schoolmaster, and he feared the same pressure might be brought to bear upon this circular. He was jealous of anything that might deprive elementary schools of the benefits of secondary education. The Board of Education should give authorities support in this matter rather than place obstacles in their way, and he asked that this circular, which they welcomed, should not only be acted up to, but that the Board should leave local authorities larger discretion in the matter of fees and scholarships. He was jealous of anything that would interfere with secondary education in connection with the poorer children. Genius could always take care of itself, but genius was rare. There were, however, thousands of children who could be passed on to secondary schools with great advantage to themselves and to the nation. He was quite sure that the hon. Baronet might trust the education authorities not to pass on to secondary schools pupils who could obtain no benefit from them; neither need he be afraid that the schools would be made a great burden on the neighbourhood. Rather it should be the business of the Board of Education to give the education authorities a spur in this matter and not obstruct them in any way. He should, therefore, be glad to hear that this circular, which they all welcomed, would not only be acted up to, but that its scope would be extended in order to leave local authorities a large amount of discretion in regard to the matter of fees and scholarships.

As to elementary education he wished to congratulate the hon. Baronet on the step which he had taken some months ago in regard to children being removed from school to church for religious instruction. He was afraid that there, again, pressure was being brought to bear on the Board of Education, because the hon. Baronet departed to some extent from what was a very just and fair position. He should like to know what the persons who took the children from school to church desired. They had already under the Education Act, which he regarded as a standing injustice, the power to appoint teachers, paid solely out of public funds, of the denomination to which the school belonged. That, he believed, was a great injustice to the nation, but surely they might then be content to leave the religious instruction in the hands of the teachers. Further, the clergymen could give religious instruction in the schools themselves if they desired. But now they were face to face with this difficulty that, in the view of certain clergymen, religious instruction could only be given within the four walls of the church building. This ought to be resisted by the Board of Education. Such action would disorganise the schools to a very large extent, especially as the teachers were not allowed to accompany the children, which was a rule that the Board of Education very properly laid down. It was very difficult to determine where this proceeding would end. He saw the other day that a discussion took place in the Education Committee at Dover, where it was claimed that the children were to attend church on twenty-two Saints Days a year. They were extending the Saints Days to a very considerable number. He believed that his Roman Catholic friends were satisfied with less than a third, and he hoped the Board of Education would watch this development, and would not allow it to be carried to the extent it now was. The first object of the Board of Education should be the education of the children, and he hoped the hon. Baronet would remain firm in the original position he took up.

With regard to what he considered the somewhat lax attitude of the Board of Education in regard to the adequate provision for the children in various districts, it was perfectly notorious that, prior to the Act of 1902, a great differentiation was made between Board schools and denominational schools, but when the whole of the maintenance was placed on the rates it was generally supposed that even justice would be meted out. The Board of Education, however, allowed schools to be maintained which were absolutely unsuitable to the purposes of education. He could give many cases in all parts of the country which would justify the position he had taken up, but he would confine himself to a few cases in his own locality. He would refer the hon. Baronet to King's Lynn. It was perfectly well known that the educational provision there had been exceedingly deficient for years, and if the Board of Education had done its duty a school board would have been started there long ago, Two years had elapsed since the Act came into force, and yet at this moment it was a positive fact that there were children in King's Lynn who could not find a place in any school in the town, and even if they did it would only be in a school which was in an insanitary condition. He was not bringing these charges against the denominational schools only, The other schools were also affected; but where they had a chairman of the education committee declare that a boy who left school at twelve made a better man than if he had remained until he was fourteen, and that an ignorant workman was better than an educated workman, the Board of Education should see that the education committee was kept up to its duty. In one school in his own city the building was condemned as a fire trap. It was decided to build a new school and statutory notice was given. Now, however, plans were submitted for making alterations which, it was admitted, would not make the school suitable. The Board of Education, instead of adhering to their original decision that a new school should be built, were now troubling about these plans. He felt, under the existing Act, parents who bore equal burthens should not have their children forced into insanitary schools because they happened to live in a particular part of the city, whereas children in another part were properly accommodated At Stow Bedon, a small parish with only fifty-five children, the clergyman was unable to maintain the school under the old Act, and leased it to the school board, but when the Act of 1902 came into force he declined to renew the lease, and the education authority at once applied to the Board of Education for power to build a school, which was given. Those connected with this transaction were, however, subjected to the most unwarrantable persecution. A small holder of land was given notice to quit, because the squire told him he had been one of the ringleaders in favour of the new school, and the woman who gave lodging to the new teacher had also had notice to quit. Yet the Education Department now supported the reopening of the denominational school in this tiny parish. He asked if that were done in the interests of education or in the interests of economy? What had these parties done to merit such consideration from the Board of Education? His object in bringing forward these matters was simply because he desired that the Board of Education should walk firmly and recognise that education was the first claim upon them. He was quite sure that the hon. Baronet was deeply interested in the cause of education. He desired to do the very best he could to carry out the work of his Department, but pressure was being brought to bear from one quarter and another which often caused him to swerve from the right and straight path. It was necessary, therefore, that the Board of Education should know that when they promoted education rather than denominational interests they would have the support of hon. Members who sat on that side of the House.

MR. KEARLEY (Devonport), referring to the discharges in Government dockyards, said that when the question was raised on the Estimates the answer given was neither definite nor satisfactory, but it was agreed to delay pressing the matter until Vote 8 was reached. In view of the fact, however, that during the last few days a large number of additional notices of discharge had been issued, he thought the House were entitled to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty to state definitely the policy of the Admiralty in the matter. When a somewhat similar state of affairs arose at the Sparkbrook Factory, Birmingham, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, with the result that the discharges had been stayed on the ground that the policy was to be thoroughly inquired into by the Defence Committee. Thereupon his colleague in the representation of Devonport also wrote to the Prime Minister, but he had not succeeded in getting a similar gratifying announcement with regard to the dockyards. If the policy as it affected Sparkbrook was to be inquired into before further discharges were carried out, why was not a similar course adopted in regard to the dockyards? Perhaps the hon. Gentleman would tell the House what policy the Government had in view which necessitated these large discharges. The discharge of nearly a thousand men in Devonport in the depth of winter seemed exceptionally cruel, especially as the Government were showing their sympathy with the unemployed in other parts of the country. Were the Government really determined to give up new construction in the Government yards, as seemed to be foreshadowed by the First Lord's statement that new construction could be more cheaply carried out in private yards—a view with which he was glad to hear the noble Lord the Member for Ealing, a former First Lord, did not agree. He had no desire to pick a bone as between private and Government yards, but as representing these men he felt bound to speak for them, especially as the Dockyard Expense Accounts showed that buildings in the Government yards were, at any rate, not more costly than in private yards. He desired to call attention to the case of the man Welsford, who met with an accident two years ago, which entirely incapacitated him. He had been awarded temporary deferred pay for six months, but when he came up for survey, instead of being allotted his pension, as he ought to have been, the matter had been deferred from time to time pending a decision of the Government medical men as to whether he was totally incapacitated. It was most unreasonable on the part of the Government to hold this man in suspense as to their ultimate decision. He knew Welsford to be of the highest integrity. He had visited him every time he went into the West, and he feared that before the Admiralty arrived at any decision the man would be dead. He was absolutely and totally incapacitated, and he (the hon. Member) thought he was suffering from softening of the brain. What was the difficulty in the report of the medical men? They did not assert that this man was not incapacitated.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. PRETYMAN, Suffolk, Woodbridge): They do

MR. KEARLEY said he had never heard that before. He understood there was one obstinate man who could not give an opinion one way or the other. He hoped the hon. Member would state where the difficulty lay.

*MR. DUKE (Plymouth) said the question of dockyard discharges was a very serious one. Dockyard towns were dependent for their prosperity, and to a large extent for their existence, upon the policy of the Admiralty, and it did not appear at the present time that the Admiralty was exercising that discretion with regard to discharges which ought to be shown by a large employer of labour. The sudden removal from employment of hundreds of men without any previous notification caused a great deal of trouble and dissatisfaction in the district concerned. He did hope the Secretary to the Admiralty would be able to tell the dockyard populations, through the House, what the intentions of the Admiralty were, and to assure those engaged in the dockyards that discharges would not be made in great numbers without some reasonable notice, so that the men could have the longest possible period to prepare themselves for the change. If the Admiralty would pursue some policy of that kind instead of ordering sudden discharges in hundreds, they would relieve themselves of some of the unpopularity which seemed to be not without reason at the present time, and also remove a great deal of difficulty from the local authorities. The mayors of both Plymouth and Devonport were in London about the matter, and his hon. friend might be assured that the policy pursued was causing in these towns a feeling very near to consternation.

*MR. PRETYMAN acknowledged the entirely reasonable character of the remarks which had been made, and was sorry there should have been a necessity for the strictures upon the Admiralty. The principles which were enunciated by the hon. Member for Tavistock and the hon. Members who followed him, were exactly those which had been followed, namely, that it was foreseen, as must have been foreseen by everyone in the House, that when there came a reduction in the programme of naval construction there must be discharges as business shrank, and from the moment it became evident that this was necessary the Admiralty considered how those discharges could be carried out in a manner to cause least inconvenience and distress. What the Admiralty then decided to do was to spread these discharges gradually over as long a period as possible, and that they should not in any one of the dockyards exceed twenty-five in the course of a week. He could not, however, ask that the Admiralty should be absolutely acquitted, because through an unfortunate misunderstanding there was some confusion in transmitting these distinct orders some time ago to the Admiral-Superintendents, and owing to this misunderstanding these notices were given by the Admiral-Superintendents at Portsmouth and Devonport entirely contrary to the intention of the Admiralty. Immediately this was discovered instructions were sent to all Admiral-Superintendents in the sense he had indicated, that no discharges were to be carried out, if it could possibly be avoided, at a greater rate than twenty-five per week. It was the object of the Admiralty to give the utmost possible notice, and to carry out these discharges in a manner which would cause the least inconvenience.

As regarded the question between dockyards and private yards he would only say that, while repairs were more cheaply carried out in the dockyards, new construction as regarded cheapness, had been slightly in favour of private yards. But at the present moment ships were being constructed practically at equal cost in both yards. There was no intention to abandon new construction in the dockyards, and what was being done was as far as possible to adjust the total amount of new construction required as between the dockyards and the private yards. Rather the major part would go to private yards, of which the area was very much greater than the dockyards; but there would be a certain amount of new construction available for the dockyards. When the amount of new construction was reduced there must be less employment available. There was only this consolation, that every sovereign which was not spent in the dockyards meant a reduction of taxation to that extent, and consequently that money was available in other directions. That meant, therefore, not an actual putting out of employment of labour, but simply a displacing of labour, and although displacing of labour was extremely unpleasant for those displaced at the time, yet, regarding it over the whole area, it did not mean that there would be less employment of labour throughout the country as a whole.

As regarded Welsford, that was a very simple matter. Under the regulations a full pension could only be given, as the hon. Member himself had stated, in cases of total incapacity; and whether a man was or was not totally incapacitated, whatever the opinion of private individuals might be, could only be decided by medical professional opinion. They could not get away from that. The hon. Member might be absolutely right—and he and the hon. Member for Plymouth had taken great interest in this particular case—but the Admiralty could not be bound by the opinion of hon. Members, however active, they must take medical opinion, and medical opinion had been unable to certify that Welsford was totally disabled. Another examination was going to be made, and he might say that the facts which had been stated to the House were not quite accurate, because the last suggestion made came direct from the Admiralty to Welsford, and they asked whether he would prefer to be examined by a doctor in London or by a doctor at Torquay, and he had informed them that he would prefer a doctor at Torquay. That examination was now about to be carried out. He might say that every consideration had been shown, but until they got the medical certificate that he was totally disabled they were unable to grant the amount of his pension.

Dr. MACNAMARA (Camberwell, N.) said that after the passing of the Education Act of 1870 many working-class parents were ready and prepared to forego any wages their children might earn if provision could be made for the children receiving something more than the common standard of education in the ordinary elementary schools. Provision was made for higher education, and it was made cheap and effective for such parents as cared to forego the earnings of their children. That went on until the year 1895 when as a result of the Cockerton judgment it was decided that school boards in making this provision were doing what was quite wrong and it was declared illegal. School boards had since been ruled down to purely primary work of the ordinary standard. He did not think that the Government were really sorry to find that judgment given, because it provided them with an opportunity to curtail the work of education beyond the standards adopted by the great school boards for the common people. The Government endeavoured in 1896 to bring in a great measure of co-ordination and to build up anew upon the wreck of the school board movement caused by the Cockerton judgment. In 1902 the Government brought in what was from a great many points of view a great Bill by which they desired to systematise and link together every grade of education. Part III. had been in operation for some considerable time, and Part II. was intended to build anew the work which had been destroyed by the Cockerton judgment. It would be impossible for him to emphasise too strongly the criticisms which his hon. friend had passed upon the Board of Education in carrying out Part II. in respect to higher education. It was the first step that counted here, and if they went wrong and provided for a particular class as against the whole community; if they built secondary schools as a thing for a special class of the community and not for the whole nation, then they would have done something to cut more deeply the social differences which marked our people, and would have missed an opportunity of obliterating those differences and making the various classes of the community know each other better than they did at the present time.

In endeavouring to add this superstructure to the educational system the Board of Education issued regulations for secondary schools, and the whole purport of them was to set up a social select class of school especially for the middle and professional classes, and not to be used by all classes of the community irrespective of their social position. He held in his hand a document which would do more harm to the well-being of this country than he could possibly describe, not only educationally but socially. Time was so short that he could only call attention to three points in these regulations to prove his statement that they were now building up schools for a class, notwithstanding the pledge which the Government had given that they would build these schools for the whole community, and set up secondary schools in their proper place in the national scheme of education. The first was Regulation 16, which told the great municipalities of Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool and London that if they wanted to set up a secondary school under the Act of 1902 and the Government gave them power, they would not be permitted to manage that school themselves. "The school must be conducted by a body of governors." That was at variance with both the spirit and the letter of the debates in 1902, in which the House was urged—and by no one more than the Prime Minister—to trust the local authorities, to whom practically all the power was to be given in this matter. The constitution of the governing body had to be such as the Board of Education could approve. He did not mind so much the approval of the Board of Education being necessary, but he should have thought that in consonance with the speech of the Prime Minister in 1902 the Board of Education should have left these great municipalities free to set up their schools in the meantime in the way that seemed best to them. If he were a member of a local education authority he would certainly not give to one of these secondary schools any part of public money unless they conformed to the scheme of management which the authority for the locality thought wise and proper to impose. That would be carrying out the spirit of the Act of 1902. The regulation did not do that. The Board of Education, under another regulation, laid it down that these municipalities could not be allowed to have a secondary school in which the fees were less than £3 a year. In regard to the higher grade schools, where the fees had been sixpence or ninepence a week, what right had the Board of Education to insist that a working man for the education of his child should pay £3 a year? Such a minimum at once transformed the provision of secondary education in industrial and working-class communities into a class institution. It was a preposterous regulation, and he regarded it as a gross piece of impertinence on the part of the Board of Education to dictate to great municipalities the fees they should charge in schools largely supported out of their own rates. In the poorer part of St. George's, East Bristol, a high-grade school had been built up and the working-class people there had paid the fees with great difficulty, but now the Board of Education came down upon them and said that they must pay £3 a year. The third and last point was equally grave, and in this connection he pleaded for the child of the working-class parent who wished to give him the secondary education which it was understood he was to get. The regulation said—

> "The Board of Education will be prepared to sanction the remission of fees to individual scholars on sufficient grounds."

But that was a very objectionable way of dealing with the matter. What right had the Board of Education, on the strength of that general regulation, to say, as they were saying, to the great municipalities that they should not have in their secondary schools more than twenty-five per cent. of free places? If the great municipality of Bolton was to have all the powers which they were promised according to the discussions in 1902, they would provide free places to save children from the factory and the workshop. Why should they not be permitted to do that? Who were the Board of Education to say that there should only be one place out of four free? He spoke with considerable indignation on this matter. These regulations were fatal to the working-class higher-grade schools. They were not justified by anything in the Act of 1902, and they would do most serious harm to the development of secondary education. He believed, however, by way of a death-bed repentance, that the Board of Education had issued a letter in which they climbed down a little. He hoped they would continue to climb down, and that they would leave the local authorities, subject to the veto of the Board of Education, where it was understood in 1902 they would be left—absolutely unfettered to carry out secondary education, not as a mere class or exclusive provision, but as a provision for the whole community.

*THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Sir WILLIAM ANSON, Oxford University) said he desired to refer, presently, to the topic on which the hon. Gentleman had spoken with so much indignation, but he would deal first with the matter of church attendance, which had been brought before the House by the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk. The hon. Member had said that the Board of Education had given way under pressure. He was not aware that the Board had departed under pressure from the position taken up. The Board came to the conclusion that the law of school attendance should be interpreted in a particular way, and to that interpretation they had adhered, and would continue to adhere. It was true that pressure was put on the Board of Education, but it was from every quarter—by the hon. Member's own friends, by Church people, by the advocates of secondary schools, by the ratepayers, and by the teachers. If pressure from all sides could keep a Government Department straight then the Board of Education had a better chance than any other Department. In regard to Stow Bedon he was not surprised that in the long tangle of the history of the controversy another hon. Gentleman should have gone wrong. The school was recognised as a certified efficient school and the Board had no choice in the matter. But no public money, whether from rates or taxes, had been or would be spent upon it. The hon. Gentleman was wrong in saying, whether under pressure or not under pressure, that the Board had allowed a school to be established contrary to the provisions under which schools should be established under the Act of 1902. He hoped the hon. Member would accept the assurance that the school of Stow Bedon was no expense to the ratepayers or the Exchequer. With regard to the schools at King's Lynn and Norwich, he undertook to make inquiry and see whether the provision of school places was inadequate.

Coming to the question of secondary schools, he thought the indignation of the hon. Member for Camberwell was not altogether justifiable. The Board of Education held, first of all, that a secondary school should fulfil the conditions as to education which a secondary school was intended to fulfil. It was no compliment or benefit to the working classes to enable them to send their children to a school which was a secondary school in name, but an elementary school in reality, and the Board had been at some pains to define what a secondary school should be. They had to consider what the financial prospects of a secondary school would be when established, as well as the question of efficiency. Such schools, unless they were endowed, must depend upon the Parliamentary grant, the rates, and the payments of fees by the scholars; and the Board considered that, in the majority of cases, fees should be paid, The Board had never insisted on a particular standard of fees, but they endeavoured to determine the amount of the fee by the conditions of the locality, and the incomes of those who wished to send their children to the school.

DR. MACNAMARA asked whether the Board had not written to Bolton insisting that there should be a minimum fee of £3.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said that no doubt n many cases they had suggested a minimum £3 fee; and he recollected pressing that last year on a local authority. He had heard since that the £3 fee had been paid and that the school was flourishing. Then, as to free places, which, of course, were independent of scholarships which might be conferred, they had the right to say that it would not be safe, having regard to the economic condition of a school, that more than 25 per cent. free places should be allowed. The charge of audacity or impertinence was wholly irrelevant, for, since Government money was granted, the Board had the right to satisfy themselves that the grants were made for the purpose which secondary schools ought to serve, and to insist that those grants should not be made except to schools which were economically as well as educationally efficient.

DR. MACNAMARA asked why the Board could not trust the locality.

*SIR WILLIAM ANSON said the Board had had a longer experience even than a municipality or the hon. Gentleman. The hon. Member had complained that the Board required schools to have a body of governors, and had taken full control out of the hands of the local authority. But what was everybody's business was generally nobody's business. As a rule they could not govern a secondary school through a great county council or a large education committee of thirty or forty persons, and, in the result, the government would very likely lapse into the hands of the permanent officials. Unless they established some such body of persons, some of whom might be extraneous to the local authority, to whom the headmaster might submit his wishes and policy, they would not get the work done as satisfactorily as it ought to be done. But the Board of Education had no desire to withdraw from the great local authorities such power as they ought to have over their secondary schools.

*MR. YOXALL (Nottingham, W.) said it was very unsatisfactory to find that the Secretary to the Board of Education had completely misunderstood their complaint. They complained that upon the higher-grade school—the modern type of secondary school—the hon. Baronet wished to impose the old form, the cramping form, of the endowed grammar school. That was their complaint, and to justify it the hon. Baronet took refuge in a definition of what the Board of Education thought a secondary school should be. In his own city of Nottingham an attempt was made to establish three modern secondary schools, but the regulations which were imposed by the Board of Education prevented it being done. On account of the unsatisfactory reply, he begged to move that the Bill be read a third time that day six months.

And, it being Seven of the clock, MR. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, put that Question.

The House divided :—Ayes, 248 ; Noes, 190. (Division List No. 93.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt.HnHugh O
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. SirH
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J.(Manch'r
Balfour,RtHnGeraldW(Leeds)
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barry, Sir Francis T. (Windsor)
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bathurst, Hn. Allen Benjamin
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Bousfield, William Robert
Bowles, T. Gibson (King'sLynn
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, Rt. Hn JA(Glasgow)
Campbell, J.H.M.(Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V.C.W.(Derbyshire)
Cayzer, Sir Charles William
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J. A(Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Cohen, Benjamin Louis
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt Hon. Sir John C.R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Cripps, Charles Alfred
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dewar,Sir T R(Tower Hamlets
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt.Hn.Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Dyke, Rt Hn. Sir William Hart
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt.Hn. SirJ(Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, SirR.B. (Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
FitzGerald, Sir Robert Penrose
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, P. S. (Warwick, S. W.
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J.E(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-
Gorst, Rt. Hn. Sir John Eldon
Goschen, Hn. George Joachim
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hain, Edward
Hall, Edward Marshall

Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A (Stafford, W.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J.F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Horner, Frederick William
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Howard, J. (Midd., Tottenham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hn. Col. W
Kimber, Sir Henry
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees.
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn H. L. W (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks N R.
Lee, Arthur H (Hants. Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col A. R.
Long, Col Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H. E (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J H (Dumfriesshire
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir Fredk. G.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. W. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt. Col. Edward
Pym, C. Guy
Quilter, Sir Cuthbert
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renshaw, Sir Charles Bine
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Royds, Clement Molyneux
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Samuel, Sir H. S. (Limehouse)
Sandys, Lieut.-Col. Thos. Myles
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seton-Karr, Sir Henry
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Hn. W. F. D. (Strand)
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn J G (Oxf'd Univ.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M
Tritton, Charles Ernest
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. H (Sheffield
Walrond, Rt Hn Sir William H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby, Lt-Col. A C E (Taunton)
Welby, Sir Chas. G. E. (Notts.)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H (Ashton und Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E. R
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

Tellers for the Ayes, Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brand, Hn. Arthur G.
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Bryce, Rt. Hn. James
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Buxton, Sydney Charles
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, Sir William
Edwards, Frank
Elibank, Master of
Ellice, Capt. E C (S Andrw's Bghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Sir F. H. (Maidstone)
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Farrell, James Patrick
Ferguson, R. C. Munro (Leith)
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N. E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt Hn Herbert John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie,
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir E. (Berwick)

Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Chas. H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West
Horniman, Frederick John
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones William (Carnarvonsh.
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent P.(Cavan,W
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Labouchere, Henry
Lamont, Norman
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Markham, Arthur Basil
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nannetti, Joseph P.
Newnes, Sir George
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, James F. X. (Cork)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'h
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John Bryn (Eifion)
Robertson, Edmund (Dundee)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, Charles E.
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Slack, John Bamford
Smith, Samuel (Flint)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt.HnC.R(Northants
Stanhope, Hn. Philip James
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, F. W. (York, W. R.
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters(NDorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W (Worcestersh. N.)
Woodhouse, SirJ.T.(Hudders'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Yoxall and Mr. Shackleton.

Bill read the third time, and passed.

SUPPLY [29TH MARCH].

Resolutions reported.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1905–6.

1. "That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

2. "That a sum, not exceeding £4,630,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Supplies and Clothing, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

Resolutions read a second time.

First Resolution:—

MR. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield) said a reduction had been moved with respect to this Vote in Committee, but there was so strong a feeling that the Army was greater than the country could afford that he thought the House ought to have an opportunity of voting for a reduction in the number of land forces of the country. Nobody could say we were justified in expending this enormous sum on the Army, and hon. Members on both sides agreed that there ought to be a substantial reduction both in the number of men and in the expenditure. Without further delaying the House, he begged to move a reduction of 10,000 men.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '221,300,' and insert '211,300.'"—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question proposed, "That '221,300' stand part of the said Resolution."

SIR ELLIOTT LEES (Birkenhead) said there had been a great many experiments made upon the Army during the last few years, and there would probably be a good many more in the course of the next few years, but he thought the Empire could not be in a better state as regarded military security, for such experiments to be made, inasmuch as it had within its borders a force of some 400,000 men of military age who had been trained to modern warfare under modern conditions, and upon most of whom the Empire could rely in case of a national crisis. He hoped that before those men ceased to be of military age and available for service, there would have been hammered out some scheme for providing the Empire with an efficient Army. He entirely agreed as to the necessity for the speedy re-armament of the Artillery. Our guns were undoubtedly out-classed by more modern inventions, but he seriously deprecated the alarmist talk which one heard in and out of the House as to the present field guns. He had had experience of those guns at both ends of the range. He had seen the excellent practice made by our gunners, and he had also, with his men, been the target at which those guns were aimed. During the South African War General De la Rey turned on the British troops some of the field guns he had captured, and, so far from those guns being absolutely obsolete and ineffective, he could assure hon. Members that, had the Boers burst their charges as well as they aimed and worked the guns, the then target would not have had the present opportunity of addressing the House. But he was not going, on the strength of a year's campaign in South Africa, to pose as an expert on War Office re-organisation. There were two or three points, however, upon which he had gained some little experience, and with regard to which he could speak with a certain authority. One of those points was the improvisation of troops in a time of national crisis. He believed that in such emergencies there would always be forthcoming a very large number of recruits of a much superior class to those who offered themselves in time of peace. He had under him in South Africa public school men, University graduates, men of position and influence at home, and men accustomed to field sports, and that, he believed, would be the class of men who would come forward in all times of national crisis. For such men a much shorter period of drill was sufficient than was necessary with ordinary recruits who had never been accustomed to obey or to command. One great disadvantage he found was that while many of these men were accustomed to the use of a shot gun, hardly any of them were accustomed to the use of the rifle. He could see no reason why every boy in the country should not be trained in the use of the rifle, and he regretted there was no provision in that direction contained in the right hon. Gentleman's scheme.

And, it being half-past Seven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned till this Evening's Sitting.

Further Consideration of Second Resolution deferred till this Evening's Sitting.

EVENING SITTING.

MESSAGE FROM THE LORDS.

That they have agreed to—Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Bill, without Amendment.

SUPPLY [29TH MARCH] REPORT.

Order read, for Further Consideration of Second Resolution, "That a sum, not exceeding £4,630,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge for Supplies and Clothing, which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said he desired to call attention to certain matters connected with the Army Clothing Factory at Pimlico. It was not his intention to go into the case of wages, piece-work, pay, or any of the labour conditions in the ordinary sense of the word, which had sometimes been raised on this Vote, and his reason for avoiding that class of subjects was that it was absolutely impossible to make them plain to the House of Commons owing to their technical character. There was a very simple mode of treating them, however, which was that the heads of the departments should take council freely, in the same way as ordinary employers, with the persons in their employ; that they should meet them freely and fairly, hear what they had to say, and thus become acquainted with all their demands. Although he was favourable to the Government manufacturing their own materials in this way, he was not favourable to the Army manufacturer. He did not believe that the heads of these departments should be soldiers, but civilians. He doubted the wisdom of making the soldier make his own clothes. Very often the soldiers placed at the head of these establishments had not the knowledge of the ordinary methods of dealing with labour which the private employer possessed. Two years previously that question was raised by the hon. Member for Clitheroe. At that time friction had arisen between the head of the Manufacturing Department, who was a soldier, and the workpeople and a petition had been refused by him on some rather pedantic ground. At the end of the wrangle, which lasted some time, it was suggested that the civilian Ministers responsible to this House might possibly receive the deputation which the military head of the factory had declined to receive and hear what the facts were. Through the good offices of the present Postmaster - General that deputation was received, not only by the Financial Secretary to the War Office, but by the Secretary of State, and a great deal of good was done thereby. At the present time there was a difficulty with regard to Particulars, or, in other words, the basis upon which the actual wages of the workpeople were earned—a principle which originally existed in Lancashire, but which had extended first to Yorkshire, and now to all places where labour of this kind was employed. He thought it would be an advantageous thing if the civilian Ministers in this House would receive those officials who represented the workpeople and who were able to speak for them upon this matter.

Sir Charles Dilke.

He moved the reduction to-day, however, on the ground of other conditions of labour which obtained at the Army Clothing Factory at Pimlico. A year ago he had a controversy with the newly-appointed Financial Secretary with regard to the ventilation and undue heat prevailing in these works. There had been the death of a girl named Alice Wright, and the death had drawn a good deal of attention to the condition of the works. Although at the inquest it was found that Alice Wright did not die of the effects of heat, but of a weak heart, it was brought out in evidence that a greater number of women fainted under the conditions of heat prevailing in that factory than in similar factories of private firms. It was impossible to produce a private workshop in which the percentage of women fainting at their work was as high as at the Army Clothing Works at Pimlico. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State, or the Army Council, or whoever might be responsible, for having at last called in the aid of the women inspectors of the Home Office in regard to this matter, a thing which had been urged by hon. Members and those who thought with hon. Members for years. There could be no doubt whatever that they were the proper persons to advise the Government in a case of works of this kind where a large number of women were employed. The reports of these women inspectors should now be made public and the Government should tell the House whether they now proposed to carry out the recommendations which had been made in those reports. A very deplorable state of things still existed at the Pimlico works. The water poured through the roof and the heat during some periods of the year was excessive. There was undoubtedly a very great deficiency in the number of pressing irons, and the result was that the women were forced to wait in the gallery where these pressing irons were heated and where the heat was exceedingly great, and it was in that gallery where most of the fainting had occurred. The conditions also of the large pressing room continued to be exceedingly bad, and in some parts of the building there was a total want of ventilation. It was principally to give the hon. Gentleman an opportunity of telling the House what the reports of the women inspectors were and what he hoped to be able to do as a result of those reports that he moved to reduce this Vote by the sum of £200.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out '£4,630,000,' and insert £4,629,800.'"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

Question proposed, "That '£4,630,000' stand part of the said Resolution."

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) suggested that the paid officials of the organisation to which the workmen in the Army Clothing Factory belonged should be allowed to approach the heads of the factory on questions of pay and labour. He said he had for the past twenty-five years taken an official part in one of the largest organisations of pieceworkers, numbering something like 100,000 people, and had had a good deal to do with the calculation of prices. Not one in 2,000 persons engaged in cotton weaving could calculate their own prices, and the difficulty of an outsider understanding how to work out the prices was therefore obvious. In Lancashire the calculations had to be done by paid officials who had received a special training. The officials of whom he spoke were the proper men to calculate the piece-work, and if they were allowed to do it much of the grumbling that was now heard would cease. The Government once a year received the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress in order that the complaints of the workers might be laid before them, and that being the case surely it was not too much to ask them to concede a minor point by receiving the men appointed by the workers in the Government workshops for the purpose of hearing their grievances. The longer he was in the House the more he felt that that was a true solution of the difficulty, and would obviate the necessity of many of the discussions there. He was glad that lady inspectors were allowed to visit the factories, but it was important that they should be allowed to go there when they pleased and not simply at the will of the officials. Ventilation, too, was important. In all Government factories there should be some approach to the standard for purity of air that obtained in the weaving sheds, where the system of ventilation gave nearly 3,000 cubic feet of air to each person.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) complained that the practice had lately grown up of having officers' uniforms made at Pimlico and of bringing in Army pensioners to do the work, to the detriment of the skilled tailoresses who might do it. He also called attention to the insufficient wages paid to some of the unskilled labourers in the Government clothing factories.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT) said that the hon. Member for Woolwich was under a misapprehension as to the making of uniforms. Certain coats were made in the factories by men taken in for the purpose of qualifying as Army master tailors. They were skilled tailors and remained in the Clothing Department some eighteen months to obtain a certificate. From time to time the opportunity occurred in the factory of undertaking special work which women were unable to do, and which no one in the factory but these skilled tailors could do. They were put on what had been erroneously called the outdoor staff. The outdoor staff did exist, but only to this extent, that under certain conditions they were allowed, as a special indulgence, to have certain work to do at home. He was sure that the hon. Member opposite would approve of that practice. That was the outdoor staff, and there was no other. He thought the hon. Member would agree that at any rate there was no grievance in this particular case.

With regard to the speech of the right hon. Baronet opposite, there was no man in the country or in this House who more thoroughly understood this subject than he did. He had for over thirty years past interested himself in the Royal Army Clothing Department, and he had, on many occasions, found fault where fault was to be found, and he had pointed out shortcomings wherever he felt that they existed. He was glad to gather from what he had said upon this occasion a sort of qualified approval at any rate of what had been done during the past twelve months to meet some of the objections to which he had referred. He had hoped for a more cordial expression of approval, because for the past twelve months every possible effort had been made to do all that was necessary to see that the workpeople in the Pimlico factory worked under proper conditions of sanitation, ventilation, and comfort, as well as receiving fair rates of wages. He did not believe that there was a better ventilated or more healthy factory in the country than that at Pimlico. The hon. Member for Clitheroe had seen many factories in his own county, and he invited him to go and see this factory at Pimlico. He could assure him that he would be most cordially welcomed, and if, with his great experience, he could make any suggestions they would receive the most careful consideration.

Mr. SHACKLETON: Can we have the inspectors' reports?

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said that at the present moment he was dealing with the hon. Member's argument that the factory at Pimlico was badly lighted and unhealthy. He could assure the hon. Member that there was not a finer equipped factory in the country. There were about 600 people working on one floor, and he defied anyone to see them at work without coming to the conclusion that they were working happily and contentedly. If they considered the conditions under which those people would have to work upon similar employment in other factories then there was no comparison either in regard to the conditions or the wages they would receive. The right hon. Baronet had told them a story about a large number of women fainting. Of course women fainted in other places besides factories, but he denied that a larger percentage fainted in the factory at Pimlico than in other factories, and he repudiated the suggestion that they fainted because of the condition of air in that factory. It was incorrect to say that the girl whose death had been mentioned had died in consequence of the condition of the atmosphere. The doctor at the inquest gave evidence to the effect that the girl was unfitted for any employment at all. It would have been a hard measure to get rid of her for that reason, and she had not been sent about her business. The atmosphere had been tested by a Home Office official, and it was found that the factory was thoroughly well ventilated. Factory inspectors had been invited to visit the factory, not on special days or at set hours, but when they pleased. Their visits this year had resulted in no complaint of any kind. That was all he had to say upon that point.

The right hon. Baronet had objected to the system and principle upon which the rates of remuneration were fixed, which he said was unsatisfactory and unfair.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: I did not allege that. What I said was that there appeared to be some difficulty about allowing the workpeople to be represented by a deputation.

Mr. SHACKLETON: The point is that any settlement of a dispute about wages is best effected through the officials of the workpeople's trades unions.

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said that any representations of the workpeople as to grievances would always be most carefully considered, but he could not assent to the proposition that any outside body should be permitted to intervene between the workpeople and the superintendent. He had a great respect for the trades unions, but he believed that it was not in the interest of the workpeople or of their employers to permit the intervention of an outside body.

Mr. SHACKLETON: But in this case it is their own union.

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said the workpeople could represent their grievances through the proper channel, and they could come to the highest authority and have their complaints considered.

Mr. BELL (Derby): What is the good of a trades union under those circumstances?

MR. SHACKLETON: Am I to understand that the hon. Member objects to a trades union choosing their own representative to place their grievances before the heads of the department?

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: No. What he did object to was that the representative should be chosen by anybody but those concerned in the grievance, and that the statement of their grievance should be put forward by anybody except those concerned in it. If there were a grievance the persons concerned in it should state it themselves or by deputation. He did not say that there were no circumstances and conditions under which a trades union other than the union of those employed in a factory could approach his right hon. friend. He did not lay down that proposition. As the hon. Member had stated, his right hon. friend was going to receive a trades unionist deputation in a few days. If there happened to be any large question affecting wages generally, he was quite sure that his right hon. friend would not object to receiving representatives from any authoritative trades union.

MR. SHACKLETON: Let us understand clearly where we are. What we ask for is that the workmen and the workwomen in the employ of the Government at this factory shall be allowed to choose their own official, who need not be a worker in that factory, but who may understand the case as well as the workpeople themselves.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I quite understand what the hon. Member means.

MR. SHACKLETON: But do you admit that right?

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: No.

MR. SHACKLETON: Then you do not admit one of the first principles of trades unionism

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said he did not admit that it was a desirable thing to allow the men and women workpeople in Government employment to choose the officials of a trade union, who might not be workers in a Government department, to represent their grievances. Some of the women in this factory were receiving 32s. a week, and their average wage was over 20s. In conclusion, he had only to say that they welcomed any suggestion which was for the improvement of the factory. They had no object except to do the very best they could for the factory and those engaged in it. He invited the right hon. Baronet and other Members who wished it to go and see the factory for themselves, and he was convinced they would agree that it was one of the best factories in the United Kingdom.

SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) asked if there would be any objection to placing the report which the inspectors made to the Home Office before the House when it was received, because then they would know exactly the conditions reported upon, and they would be able to form their own conclusions.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: I would welcome that course, but it is evident that I cannot commit the Home Secretary in this matter. I have never seen this report or heard anything of it, and still less have I heard of any complaint. I cannot pledge my right hon. friend in the matter, but if there be such a report I have no objection whatever to the course suggested.

MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said he had had a great deal to do with the trades unions and he quite understood and sympathised with the desire of every employer to be spoken to by his employees without the intervention of any one outside. But where large numbers were employed it was evident that there were those who thought their personal relationship with their employer would be affected and prejudiced if they made individual complaints, however justifiable their complaints might be. These suspicions were enough to make them choose somebody outside, such as the trades unions, to represent them. Employers of labour in the House must admit that where large bodies of workmen were employed it was expedient in the interests of the workers that they should choose their own representatives. If a private employer recognised this why should not the Government recognise it? Why should the Government be the one exception in the country? What reason of public policy was there that this elementary right of trade unionists should be denied to Government employees? It could not be for electioneering purposes. Electioneering reasons and political pressure could be brought to bear entirely apart from this Everybody who knew anything about trades, unions in this country knew that one of their elementary rights was to claim, and properly so, to negotiate through their own representatives in all disputes with their employers. He thought the Government was very badly advised indeed to continue to resist this elementary right of trades unionists of the country.

Mr. BELL said he could not allow the remarks of the Financial Secretary to pass without making some protest. He had always regarded the Government as a body who ought to set a fair and good example to all employers of labour in the country. But by the right hon. Gentleman's remarks it was shown to be far and away behind most employers in the country. The right hon. Gentleman had said he had no objection to trades unions. In fact, he respected them; but it was only a farce to suggest anything of the kind when he declined to have anything to do with their representatives. No one would have objections to trades unions if they had regard to the functions for which they existed. He had been a trades unionist for twenty-seven years, and he was glad to say he found employers in the country of quite a different opinion from that of the hon. Member opposite. He had within the last two or three weeks been sent for by employers, which showed that the employers desired rather to deal with the representative of the men than with the men themselves. The right hon. Gentleman had not convinced him that if employees of the Government put forward their own cases they would not be subject to victimisation. They had seen too many instances of the kind to believe any such statement. He did not suggest

that the heads of the Government Departments would countenance such a thing, but there were too many officials between them and the workmen, and those officials were the people to find paltry and insignificant excuses to get rid of the employees if they dared to make complaints. He protested against the attitude of the hon. Gentleman in declining on behalf of the Government to discuss with or receive the official representatives of those people. If the hon. Gentleman found himself in any Court he would engage the best counsel he could get to state his case. What was good for him was good for the workmen. The workmen had a perfect right to engage whom they thought proper to represent them in any questions between them and their employers. If the right hon. Gentleman was to press this on the lines he had taken up he would press it to an absurdity, because the taxpayers were the real employers and the workmen would then negotiate with their employers—the taxpayers—direct. The hon. Gentleman was simply the agent of the taxpayers in the office he held, and the employees, he submitted, had the same right to appoint their agent. The attitude of the hon. Gentleman would create a good deal of disaffection amongst the employees for which he would be responsible after his observations that night.

Mr. BENN (Devonport) took exception to the remarks which had fallen from the Financial Secretary to the War Office with reference to the relations between the War Office and their employees in the clothing factories. To say that those who served the Government in the humblest walks of life and who were unable to voice their grievances were to be debarred from employing somebody else to state their case was one of the most monstrous things he had heard in the House of Commons. He was sure the statement must have arisen from want either of experience or of information. On the London County Council it was found extremely convenient to have the case stated by those who had time and ability to put it in the briefest and most practical form, and, in the light of such experience, he hoped the hon. Member opposite would reconsider his decision and allay the dissatisfaction which his policy must cause. He spoke as representing a constituency with a very large number of Civil servants, and it would be a very great grief to them to hear that their grievances were only to be put forward by those immediately concerned in any workshop or factory. He hoped this policy would be reconsidered at the earliest possible moment.

MR. CAWLEY (Lancashire, Prestwich) said that in the case of piecework, the piece-worker was not allowed to get assistance to see whether the piecework he was working on was right or not. If a piece-worker was dissatisfied, and was not able to get somebody in whom he had confidence to advise him, there would never be any content in the Government factories. The Financial Secretary had not given any answer to the argument of the hon. Member for Clitheroe. He thought they ought to allow some outside assistance to these people, who were not either accountants or auditors. They ought to have some one chosen by themselves in whom they had confidence. He thought they ought to have the factory inspector's report. They wanted the report that was furnished to the Home Office. He thought it ought to have been furnished to the War Office. He considered that the House was entitled to a copy of it, and he hoped they would have it.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 176; Noes, 137. (Division List No. 94.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn Hugh O
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres Lord
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R.(Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Bull, William James
Campbell, J. H M (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cavendish, V. C. W.(Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J A (Worc
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H.A.E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C
Dorington, Rt Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J (Manc'r)
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B (Inv'rn'ssB'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S (Warwick, S.W.
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E.(Elgin&Nairn
Gore, Hn. S. F. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gretton, John
Hall, Edward Marshall
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq.of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herb. Merton
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool
Lawson, Hn. H. L W (Mile End
Lawson, JohnGrant(YorksN.R
Lee, Arthur H(Hants Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter(Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Reginald J.(Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W.F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir H.E(Wigt'n
Maxwell, W J H (Dumfriesshire
Montagu, Hon. J Scott(Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer

Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Renwick, George
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rollit, Sir Albert Kaye
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford, East
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tollemache, Henry James
Tomlinson, Sir W. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col Sir C. E H (Sheffield
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby, Lt.-Col A. C E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton und Lyne
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R)
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W H (Yorks.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P.
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Delany, William
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Ellice, Capt E C (SAndr'wsBghs
Ellis, John Edward (Notts.)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Findlay, Alex. (Lanark, N.E.)
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, RtHnHerbert John
Grant, Corrie
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt Hn Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Seely, Maj. J.E.B. (Isle of Wight
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Soares, Ernest J.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (NDorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Shackleton.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER said he wished to call attention to a matter which had already been before the House, and in regard to which the answers given were not satisfactory, namely, the purchase of 20,000 suits of clothes at 11s. 9d. each by the Clothing Department of the War Office, and the sale of 10,000 at 5s. 6½d., and 10,000 at 5s. 7½d. each. That showed an enormous loss, and the only reason given was that too many suits were bought and that there was no room to store them. It was stated in answer to a Question that the number of Boer prisoners had been over-estimated. That was rather an unsatisfactory Answer considering that the whole of the transaction took place within the last twelve months. If the War Office had no place to store the clothes, it surely would have been cheaper to hire part of a warehouse to store them than to waste 40 per cent. of the price by selling them. He could not help thinking that the reason for disposing of the clothes was not want of accommodation, but really because the War Office, being anxious to reduce the Estimates for one year, sold the clothes at a sacrifice. He supposed there was a possibility of the War Office expenses having to be found by another Government next year, and that those responsible for the War Office at present were anxious to show that their management had been very good. He hoped the Financial Secretary to the War Office would give a more satisfactory explanation than had yet been offered of this large loss of money. He further desired to know if the Home Office inspector's report on the Army Clothing Factories would be published, even if it was a bad one. He believed it was already in print and that some hon. Members had seen it.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT: It has not been seen by me, and it has not come before the Department yet.

MR. COURTENAY WARNER said it was a great pity that the hon. Gentleman should not have seen it. The officials connected with the Clothing Department should have seen it. He believed the report did not give so beautiful a description of the state of things as the hon. Gentleman gave in his speech. He was informed that the suits which were sold at 5s. 7½d. each were bought by a Mr. Moses, and that they were being retailed at 7s. 6d. The placing of clothing on the market in that way was conducive to sweating, and that was a form of dumping which should be avoided.

MR. WHITLEY (Halifax) said that after what had occurred in connection with some other departments of the War Office they were naturally very anxious to watch all matters of this kind. They had recently been told that the War Office sold oats at half the contract price when they were actually buying from the same contractors in the same month the same kind of article at full price. He agreed with the last speaker that the clothing transaction had been largely due to the desire of the present occupants of the War Office to make their accounts seem better than they really were. They had used appropriations-in-aid in an extraordinary way to make an apparent reduction of their total demand in the Estimates. What he wished to ask the Financial Secretary to the War Office was whether it was a fact that the War Office had been putting out tenders for clothing at the same time as they were selling off surplus stores of a similar kind at more than fifty per cent. below the contract price. If that was the case, it was clear that it had been done to gain a little financial credit at the expense of the taxpayers If the War Office storehouses were full, it would surely have been better to hire an outside warehouse in which to place the 20,000 suits than to give fresh orders for similar clothing during the coming financial year.

*MR. BARRAN (Leeds, N.) said there was further evidence, outside anything that appeared in the Parliamentary Papers, that there was want of co-ordination between the different departments of the War Office. It was not an uncommon thing for large quantities of material, such as serge, to be sold at very low prices, while in the ordinary course of events similar material was being purchased for other departments at the same time, or would certainly be required in a short space of time. He could tell the Financial Secretary of sales by public auction which had taken place, after being advertised, within the last few months at which hundreds, if not thousands of pounds worth of goods had been sold of the type, or near the type, which manufacturers, if not contracting for now, would probably be asked to contract for shortly. There was no reasonable excuse why the goods which were being sold should not be employed instead of that which would be bought later on. This was not a matter that was occurring at the present time only. It was a matter of notoriety that great bargains could be picked up at these War Office sales. The only valid excuse was that the goods were unfit, but if that were advanced the question would arise how goods which were unfit were allowed to pass into stock. Yesterday he had asked the Prime Minister whether, in view of recent disclosures, he would press through Parliament a Bill for the prevention of secret commissions. It would perhaps not be right for him to say anything with regard to the War Office in connection with any matters which were not under consideration at the present time. He wanted to point out that in the general trade of the country where matters of this kind cropped up, a wise person would take the requisite steps to prevent anything of the kind occurring in the future. Without wishing to reflect on any particular individual or firm, he would say that certain branches of commerce were honeycombed by such practices.

*MR. SPEAKER said that unless the hon. Member could connect his remarks with some particular case connected with the Vote, he was not in order.

*MR. BARRAN said he was sorry to have travelled beyond the limits of discussion. He had merely wanted to throw out a suggestion. There were many matters of wastefulness in connection with the War Office which were well known throughout the trade in this and other cities, and which needed far more careful attention than they had received in the past.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.) said that in almost all the Departments there had been enormous waste in connection with the South African War. Of his own knowledge he knew that large numbers of Army regulation boots, similar to those which were being taken in at this moment at the Clothing Depôt at about 11s. per pair, were being sold retail at from 5s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. per pair. He presumed, from what he knew of the trade, that the gentlemen who purchased these boots must have given from 2s. 6d. to 3s. per pair for what cost the War Office three-and-a-half times that money. He was assured that these goods were sold at the ruinous prices mentioned because they were offered in such large quantities. If tenders for smaller quantities had been asked for better prices would have been obtained. Moreover, these were goods not of a perishable nature, and could have been transhipped from South Africa at a small cost, and issued to the troops here. There had undoubtedly been a waste of hundreds of thousands of pounds, and he intended to put one or two Questions to the Secretary of State for War on this matter in order to elicit the facts as they had been presented to him.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said he thought it was an understood thing that the sales in South Africa were not to be dealt with at this time.

MR. GEORGE WHITE said that that only referred to the Report of the Auditor-General.

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said he greatly regretted, indeed he protested, against the suggestion, the innuendo, that was conveyed throughout the whole of the speech of the hon. Member for Leeds. The hon. Member referred to secret commissions and said that that was a direction in which a wise person would insist on reform. Surely every man should have a fair trial and not be condemned until he was impartially heard. When the hon. Member could point to one single example in which the contract branch of the War Department had had even a suspicion attached to it, then, and only then, he would be entitled to talk of the exposure of the War Office. He should be greatly surprised if the hon. Member was at any time in the future able to point to a single instance in which the contract branch had been in any way to blame. In reply to the hon. Member for Lichfield, he had to say that, if there was a report of the inspector on the Royal Army Clothing Factory, he had not seen it, but, if it were the case that it contained a suggestion of some shortcomings, he would at once proceed to make any amendment that was possible. The hon. Member could not imagine that the War Office had any other object in view except that the factory employees should pursue their occupations with all comfort, convenience, and happiness, consistent with their duty to the taxpayers. The hon. Member also referred to the sale of 20,000 suits of clothes which were purchased in connection with the war in South Africa.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER said his information was that the suits were made at a much more recent date than that.

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT replied that the hon. Member's information was entirely incorrect. These suits were made for war purposes, and they were sold because, the war having come to an end, there was no further use for them. They were purchased for the purpose of clothing Boer prisoners, and our own soldiers when they obtained their discharge. It was very regrettable that any public property should be sold at a loss. But owing to the conditions of war the Government had to pay an inflated price for what they required, partly because they were the principal purchaser. The end of the war came very suddenly, and then not only did the principal purchaser cease to buy, which in itself would affect the price, but the Government became the principal seller, and it was not surprising if under such conditions the price fell even 50 per cent. The cost of storage accommodation was very great, and he was not anxious largely to increase it. They had retained four years supply and sold 20,000 suits. The clothes which were purchased for the Boer prisoners were not, unhappily, of that size which was suitable for the troops of the British Army—[Opposition cries of "Oh"]—they were a great deal too large. The 3,000 suits which they were now buying were of a special size which was running short. He assured the House that when they sold they got the best price that could be obtained; they invited no fewer than 123 firms to tender, and took the highest tender.

Mr. WHITLEY asked if the hon. Member could give the House the date of the purchases.

*Mr. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said that they were all purchased before the termination of the war. He had no knowledge whatever of the purchases of the boots.

*Mr. LEVY (Leicestershire, Loughborough) said that if there was not corruption at the War Office, the idea was very widely prevalent that justice was not done to all the people who wished to tender, and that goods were accepted from certain firms or individuals at exceedingly high rates, and frequently goods were purchased in quantities largely in excess of the requirements of the War Office and were then sold at prices much under cost. It was a fact that in the early stages of the war very large contracts for khaki drill were given to merchants in the City of London, not one yard of which was made by the firms who received the contracts, whereas orders were refused to the manufacturers who made the khaki drill and supplied the merchants who received the contracts and themselves tendered at a much lower price than was paid by the Government.

Mr. LYELL (Dorsetshire, E.) said the first criticism which could be levelled against the War Office was that they did not know the value of a good storekeeper. Was it conceivable that the War Office could not have obtained storage and insurance for these 20,000 suits at a tenth of the cost which the sales realised? He did not level at the War Office any charge of corruption or any insinuation that they had received private commissions in connection with these sales. But he did charge the War Office with a want of business capacity which would have brought a private firm into the Bankruptcy Court in a few months.

*Sir A. HAYTER (Walsall) said the Financial Secretary to the War Office had omitted one very important fact in connection with the surplus clothing. When soldiers were discharged they were offered a suit of clothing or, instead, a gratuity in money. Looking at human nature as it was, the majority of the men took the money and not the clothing. Hence much of the surplus supply of clothing. He wished to ask the hon. Gentleman whether the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee that, whenever a sale of public property took place, the officer who conducted the sale should give a certificate that the prices obtained were the best that could be obtained in the circumstances, had been given effect to in the case of the sale of this clothing?

*MR. BROMLEY DAVENPORT said he did not know of the existence of such a recommendation by the Public Accounts Committee, but he had the assurance of his right hon. friend the Secretary for War that he approved of the recommendation and would see that it was carried out.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 215; Noes, 163. (Division List No. 95.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn Hugh O.
Atkinson, Rt. Hn. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt Hn. Gerald W, (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ,
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'hampton)
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E,
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hn. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas

Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir J. C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir Wm. Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hon. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gretton, John
Greville, Hn. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords N W
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W.
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay

Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Hozier, Hn. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hn. Arthur Fred
Jessel, Captain Herb. Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn Col. W.
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W (Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant (Yorks. NR
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower, Frederick N. S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut. Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn Walter (Bristol, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsmouth
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (Edinburgh, W
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F
Maxwell, Rt Hn. Sir H. E. (Wigt'n
Maxwell, W. J. H. (Dumfriessh.
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William

Morgan, DavidJ(Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury
Pease, Herb. Pike (Darlington
Peel, Hn. W. Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir M. J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,RtHn.J.G.(Oxf'dUniv.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col.SirCEH.(Sheffield)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. SirWilliam H
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Welby,Lt.Col.A.C.E.(Taunton)
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H. (Ashton undLyne
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, SirW.H.(Yorks.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Caldwell James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Ellice,CaptEC(SAndrw's Bghs)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Findlay,Alexander (Lanark,NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Chas. Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones,David Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex. (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis. John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley,Rt. Hn. John (Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Rea, Russell
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries)
Richards, Thomas (WMonm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Seely, Maj.J.E.B. (Isle ofWight
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer,Rt.Hn.CR.(Northants)
Stevenson, Francis S
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C.(Radcliffe)

Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Warner and Mr. J. H. Whitley.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 16th March, proceeded to put forthwith the Questions necessary to dispose of the Report of Vote A of the Army Estimates.

“That a number of Land Forces, not exceeding 221,300, all ranks, be maintained for the Service of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland at Home and Abroad, excluding His Majesty's Indian Possessions, during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906.”

To which an Amendment had been proposed [30th March], to leave out “221,300,” and insert “211,300.”—(*Mr. Courtenay Warner.*)

Question put, “That ‘221,300’ stand part of the said Resolution.”

The House divided:—Ayes, 230; Noes, 173. (Division List No. 96.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt. Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r
Balfour, Rt. Hn Gerald W (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Fredk. George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hn. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbysh.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn J A (Worc.)
Chamberlayne, T (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Coghill, Douglas Harry
Collings, Rt. Hn. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hn. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.
Crossley, Rt. Hn. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hn. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers
Doxford, Sir William Theodore
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hn. A. de Tatton
Elliot, Hn. A. Ralph Douglas
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hn. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn Sir J (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H
Finlay, Sir R. B (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flannery, Sir Fortescue
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S (Warwick, S. W
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Fredk.
Gordon, Hn. J. E (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj. Evans (T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt Hn. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hn. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir. Jas. (Staffords N. W.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope, J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, J. (Kent, Faversham)
Hozier, Hn. Jas. Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Capt. Herb. Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir J. H.
Kenyon, Hn. Geo. T. (Denbigh
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hn. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, Sir Joseph (Monm'th
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson, Hn. H. L. W. (Mile End)

Lawson, John Grant(YorksNR
Lee, Arthur H(Hants.Fareham)
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson,-Gower, Frederick N.S
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Chas. W.(Evesham
Long,Rt. Hn. Walter (Bristol,S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas, Reginald J. (Portsm'th)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hn. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Chas. (Liverpool)
M'Iver, Sir Lewis (EdinburghW
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Massey-Mainwaring, Hn. W. F.
Maxwell, Rt Hn Sir HE(Wigt'n)
Maxwell, WJH(Dumfriesshire)
Milner, Rt. Hn. Sir FrederickG
Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hn. J. Scott (Hants)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan, D. J. (Walthamstow)
Morrell, George Herbert
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Chas. J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, Herb. Pike, Darlington)
Peel, Hn. Wm. R. Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F.
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herb. (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hn. James
Sackville, Col. S. G Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H(Hertford, East)
Spear, John Ward
Stewart, Sir Mark J M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E.(Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn JG. (Oxf'dUniv.
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent,Col Sir C.EH(Sheffield)
Walrond, Rt. Hn. Sir Wm. H.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel Wm. George
Welby, Lt.-Col A.C.E (Taunton
Wharton, Rt. Hn. John Lloyd
Whiteley, H.(Ashton undLyne)
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W H (Yorks
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, RtHn. C.B. Stuart
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Yerburgh, Robert Armstrong
Younger, William

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N. E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Barlow, John Emmott
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth C. B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, John
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh, S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan(Cardigan
Delany, William
Dilke, Rt. Hn. Sir Charles
Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Douglas, Chas. M. (Lanark)
Duffy, William J.
Ellice,Capt.E.C(SAndrw'sBghs)
Emmott, Alfred
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Findlay,Alexander (Lanark,NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Sir Walter (Derby Co.)
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt.HnHerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffiths, Ellis J.
Guest, Hn. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hammond, John
Harcourt, Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hn. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hn. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C.E.H.(Bristol, E.)
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr Chas. Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Joicey, Sir James
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Kitson, Sir James
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex (Donegal, W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. J. (Montrose)
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John

Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russel
Reckitt, Harold James
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Richards, Thomas (W Monm'th
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robson, William Snowdon
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C R (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, D. Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J W (Worcestersh. N.)
Woodhouse, Sir J T (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Warner and Major Seely.

Question put, "That this House doth agree with the Committee in the said Resolution."

The House divided:—Ayes, 228; Noes, 155. (Division List No. 97.)

AYES.

Agg-Gardner, James Tynte
Agnew, Sir Andrew Noel
Allsopp, Hon. George
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O
Atkinson, Rt. Hon. John
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. Sir H.
Bagot, Capt, Josceline FitzRoy
Bailey, James (Walworth)
Bain, Colonel James Robert
Baird, John George Alexander
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (Manch'r)
Balfour, Rt Hn Gerald W. (Leeds
Balfour, Kenneth R. (Christch.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Bartley, Sir George C. T.
Bentinck, Lord Henry C.
Bhownaggree, Sir M. M.
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bigwood, James
Bill, Charles
Bingham, Lord
Blundell, Colonel Henry
Bond, Edward
Boscawen, Arthur Griffith
Brassey, Albert
Brodrick, Rt. Hon. St. John
Brotherton, Edward Allen
Bull, William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, John George
Campbell, J. H. M. (Dublin Univ.
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Cautley, Henry Strother
Cavendish, V. C. W. (Derbyshire
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord Hugh (Greenwich)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Chamberlayne, T. (S'thampton
Chapman, Edward
Clive, Captain Percy A.
Coates, Edward Feetham
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse
Colomb, Rt. Hon. Sir John C. R.
Colston, Chas. Edw. H. Athole
Compton, Lord Alwyne
Cook, Sir Frederick Lucas
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S
Crossley, Rt. Hon. Sir Savile
Cubitt, Hon. Henry
Dalkeith, Earl of
Dalrymple, Sir Charles
Davenport, William Bromley-
Denny, Colonel
Dickinson, Robert Edmond
Dickson, Charles Scott
Dimsdale, Rt. Hn. Sir Joseph C.
Disraeli, Coningsby Ralph
Dorington, Rt. Hn. Sir John E.
Doughty, Sir George
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Doxford, Sir William Theodore.
Duke, Henry Edward
Egerton, Hon. A. de Tatton
Fardell, Sir T. George
Fellowes, Hon. Ailwyn Edward
Fergusson, Rt. Hn. Sir J. (Manc'r
Fielden, Edward Brocklehurst
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Finlay, Sir R. B. (Inv'rn'ss B'ghs)
Firbank, Sir Joseph Thomas
Fisher, William Hayes
Flower, Sir Ernest
Forster, Henry William
Foster, Philip S. (Warwick, S. W.
Gardner, Ernest
Godson, Sir Augustus Frederick
Gordon, Hn. J. E. (Elgin & Nairn)
Gordon, Maj Evans- (T'r H'mlets
Gore, Hon. S. F. Ormsby-
Goulding, Edward Alfred
Graham, Henry Robert
Gray, Ernest (West Ham)
Gretton, John
Greville, Hon. Ronald
Guest, Hon. Ivor. Churchill
Guthrie, Walter Murray
Hall, Edward Marshall
Halsey, Rt. Hon. Thomas F.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton Marq. of (L'nd'nderry
Hare, Thomas Leigh
Harris, F. Leverton (Tynem'th)
Haslam, Sir Alfred S.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heath, Arthur Howard (Hanley
Heath, Sir James (Staffords. N W
Heaton, John Henniker
Helder, Augustus
Henderson, Sir A. (Stafford, W)
Hickman, Sir Alfred
Hoare, Sir Samuel
Hogg, Lindsay
Hope J. F. (Sheffield, Brightside
Hoult, Joseph
Howard, John (Kent, Feversh'm
Hozier, Hon. James Henry Cecil
Hudson, George Bickersteth
Hunt, Rowland
Jebb, Sir Richard Claverhouse
Jeffreys, Rt. Hon. Arthur Fred.
Jessel, Captain Herbert Merton
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon, Hon. Geo. T. (Denbigh)

Kenyon-Slaney, Rt.Hn. Col.W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir Henry Seymour
Knowles, Sir Lees
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Laurie, Lieut.-General
Law, Andrew Bonar (Glasgow)
Lawrence, SirJoseph(Monm'th)
Lawrence, Wm. F. (Liverpool)
Lawson,Hn.H.L.W.(Mile End)
Lawson, John Grant(Yorks.NR
Lee ArthurH.(Hants,Fareham
Lees, Sir Elliott (Birkenhead)
Legge, Col. Hon. Heneage
Leveson-Gower,Frederick N.S.
Llewellyn, Evan Henry
Lockwood, Lieut.-Col. A. R.
Long,Col.Charles W.(Evesham
Long, Rt. Hn.Walter(Bristol,S)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Francis William
Loyd, Archie Kirkman
Lucas, Col. Francis (Lowestoft)
Lucas,ReginaldJ.(Portsmouth)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Macdona, John Cumming
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Maconochie, A. W.
M'Arthur, Charles (Liverpool)
M'Iver,SirLewis(Edinburgh W.
Majendie, James A. H.
Malcolm, Ian
Manners, Lord Cecil
Marks, Harry Hananel
Martin, Richard Biddulph
Maxwell, RtHnSirH.E.(Wigt'n
Maxwell,W.J.H(Dumfriesshire
Milner, Rt.Hn.Sir Frederick G.

Milvain, Thomas
Montagu, Hon.J.Scott (Hants.)
Moon, Edward Robert Pacy
Moore, William
Morgan,DavidJ.(Walthamstow
Morrell, George Herbert
Morrison, James Archibald
Morton, Arthur H. Aylmer
Mount, William Arthur
Murray, Charles J. (Coventry)
Murray, Col. Wyndham (Bath)
Nicholson, William Graham
Palmer, Sir Walter (Salisbury)
Parker, Sir Gilbert
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Peel,Hn.Wm.Robert Wellesley
Percy, Earl
Pierpoint, Robert
Pilkington, Colonel Richard
Platt-Higgins, Frederick
Plummer, Sir Walter R.
Pretyman, Ernest George
Pryce-Jones, Lt.-Col. Edward
Randles, John S.
Rankin, Sir James
Ratcliff, R. F
Reid, James (Greenock)
Remnant, James Farquharson
Renwick, George
Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield)
Robertson, Herbert (Hackney)
Rolleston, Sir John F. L.
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Round, Rt. Hon. James
Sackville, Col. S. G. Stopford
Sadler, Col. Samuel Alexander
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Seely, Maj.J.E.B.(Isle of Wight

Sharpe, William Edward T.
Sinclair, Louis (Romford)
Skewes-Cox, Thomas
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H.(Hertford,East)
Spear, John Ward
Stewart Sir Mark J. M'Taggart
Stroyan, John
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomlinson, Sir Wm. Edw. M.
Tuff, Charles
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Turnour, Viscount
Vincent, Col.SirC.E.H(Sheffield
Vincent, Sir Edgar (Exeter)
Walrond, Rt.Hn.SirWilliamH.
Warde, Colonel C. E.
Webb, Colonel William George
Welby,Lt.-Col.A.C.E (Taunton
Whiteley,H.(Ashton und.Lyne
Whitmore, Charles Algernon
Williams, Colonel R. (Dorset)
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.
Wilson, John (Glasgow)
Wilson-Todd, Sir W. H.(Yorks.
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Worsley-Taylor, Henry Wilson
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Wyndham-Quin, Col. W. H.
Younger, William

TELLERS FOR THE AYES.—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Allen, Charles P.
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barlow, John Emmott
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beaumont, Wentworth, C.B.
Bell, Richard
Benn, John Williams
Black, Alexander William
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bolton, Thomas Dolling
Brigg, John
Bright, Allan Heywood
Broadhurst, Henry
Brunner, Sir John Tomlinson
Burke, E. Haviland
Caldwell, James
Cameron, Robert
Campbell, John (Armagh S.)
Causton, Richard Knight
Cawley, Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cogan, Denis J.
Condon, Thomas Joseph
Craig, Robert Hunter (Lanark)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Davies, Alfred (Carmarthen)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Delany, William

Dobbie, Joseph
Doogan, P. C.
Duffy, William J.
Ellice, Capt E C(S.Andrw'sBghs
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Findlay, Alexander(Lanark,NE
Fitzmaurice, Lord Edmond
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Freeman-Thomas, Captain F.
Gilhooly, James
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hammond, John
Hardie, J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester
Hayden, John Patrick
Hayter, Rt. Hon. Sir Arthur D.
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemphill, Rt. Hon. Charles H.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Higham, John Sharpe
Hobhouse, C. E. H.(Bristol,E.)
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hutchinson, Dr. Charles Fredk.
Jacoby, James Alfred
Johnson, John
Jones, DavidBrynmor(Swansea

Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kilbride, Denis
Lamont, Norman
Law, Hugh Alex.(Donegal,W.)
Lawson, Sir Wilfrid (Cornwall)
Layland-Barratt, Francis
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Laren, Sir Charles Benjamin
Mooney, John J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hn. John(Montrose
Moss, Samuel
Moulton, John Fletcher
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, South)
Norman, Henry
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Brien Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)

O'Brien, P. J. (Tipperary, N.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, T. (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Partington, Oswald
Paulton, James Mellor
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, Robert John
Priestley, Arthur
Rea, Russell
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Reid, Sir R. Threshie (Dumfries
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robson, William Snowdon.
Roche, John
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Thomas (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, John (Forfarshire)
Slack, John Bamford
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spencer, Rt. Hn. C. R. (Northants
Stevenson, Francis S.
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Harold John
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Ure, Alexander
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Thomas Palmer
Wills, Arthur Walters (N. Dorset
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Woodhouse Sir J T. (Huddersf'd
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES.—Mr. Barran and Mr. Soares.

Resolution, which upon March 23rd was reported from the Committee of Supply, and which was then agreed to by the House, read, as followeth—

"That 129,000 officers, seamen, and boys be employed for the Sea and Coast Guard Services for the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1906, including 20,211 Royal Marines."

Ordered, That leave be given to bring in a Bill to provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army; and that Mr. Secretary Arnold-Forster, Mr. Pretyman, and Mr. Bromley Davenport do prepare and bring it in.

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.

"To provide, during Twelve Months, for the Discipline and Regulation of the Army," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 136.]

MARINE INSURANCE BILL.

[SECOND READING.]

Order for Second Reading read.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. CALDWELL (Lanarkshire, Mid.) said this measure had had a very eventful Parliamentary career. It was introduced in 1892, and took six or seven years to pass through the House of Lords, during which it underwent an enormous amount of amendment. Marine insurance had this peculiarity: for 500 years it had stood as part of the common law of the country without a single Act of Parliament dealing with it. The reason was obvious. In dealing with a constantly changing subject such as shipping, it was impossible to lay down on the Statute-book any fixed principles.

Message to attend the Lords Commissioners.

The House went; and, being returned,

MR. SPEAKER reported the Royal Assent to Consolidated Fund (No. 1) Act, 1905.

MARINE INSURANCE BILL.

Question again proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."

MR. CALDWELL (continuing) regretted the interruption which had taken place, as he was anxious to conclude his remarks on the Second Reading so that the Bill could go to a Select Committee. It was obviously a measure which could not properly be dealt with in the ordinary way by the Standing Committee on Law. It was a codification Bill, involving a knowledge of common law, marine insurance, and the question of transferring it from the common law to statute law. If hon. Members thought that by such a measure the law would be made more definite or clear they were making the greatest mistake of their lives. He was prepared to allow the Bill to go to a Select Committee, who would probably take as many years to revise it as were taken in another place.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir ROBERT FINLAY, Inverness Burghs) said the Bill was one to codify the law relating to marine insurance, and he agreed with the hon. Member that it was not a measure suitable to be dealt with by an ordinary Grand Committee. Very careful attention would have to be given to every clause, and he would accept the suggestion of the hon. Member that it should go to a Select Committee if the House would allow the Second Reading on that understanding.

And, it being Midnight, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE AND EXECUTOR [EXPENSES].

Resolution reported, "That it is expedient to authorise the charge upon the Consolidated Fund of such sums as may be required to make good liabilities arising out of the default of the Public Trustee or his officers appointed under any Act of the present session to provide for the appointment of a Public Trustee and Executor, and to authorise the payment, out of moneys provided by Parliament, of the salaries and other expenses payable in pursuance of such Act."

Resolution agreed to.

NURSES REGISTRATION COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of providing for the Registration of Nurses.

Ordered, That Dr. Robert Ambrose, Major Kenneth Balfour, Mr. Charles Douglas, Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Dr. Hutchinson, Mr. Mount, Lord Morpeth, Mr. Pierpoint, Mr. Tennant, Sir John Stirling-Maxwell, and Sir John Batty Tuke be members of the Select Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, that Five be the quorum.—*(Sir A. Acland-Hood.)*

Adjourned at four minutes after Twelve o'clock.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

MEMORANDUM OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE RELATING TO THE ARMY ESTIMATES FOR 1905–06.

TOTAL ESTIMATES.

The total money to be voted for Army services in 1905–06 compares with that voted in 1904–05, as follows —

	Army.	Ordnance Factories.	Total.
	£	£	£
Estimates, 1905–06	29,813,000	100	29,813,100
,, 1904–05	28,830,000	70,000	28,900,000
	983,000 Increase.	69,900 Decrease.	913,100 Increase.

This comparison is not affected by the additional estimate for 550,000*l.* recently presented, as the whole of that sum was required for the purposes of the Somaliland expedition; but it is affected by the following special items —

Provided in 1905–06—		£
Re-armament of Horse and Field Artillery		1,213,000
Increased charge for service of loans		370,000
Growth of charge for service pay, &c.		250,000
		1,833,000
Less—	£	
Provision for special "Mowatt" reserves, &c., in 1904–05, terminating in that year	400,000	
Provision for re-armament of Horse and Field Artillery, 1904–05	50,000	
		450,000
Net increase on special services		1,383,000

Eliminating the special charge for Horse and Field Artillery from both years, the Army Estimates for 1905–06 stand at 28,600,000*l.*, as against 28,780,000*l.* for 1904–05; a net reduction of 180,000*l.*, as shown at page 9 of the Estimates; and if the other special charges are also eliminated, the comparison stands—

	Army.	Ordnance Factories.	Total.
	£	£	£
Normal Estimates, 1904–05	28,380,000	70,000	28,450,000
,, ,, 1905–06	27,980,000	100	27,980,100
Reduction	400,000	69,900	469,900

APPENDIX I.

STRENGTH OF THE ARMY.

The reduction of 5,700 men shown under Vote A does not represent the real change to be made in establishments, owing to the inclusion, on the one hand, of 10,000 extra men for Somaliland in 1904–05, and, on the other, of 11,500 extra men in 1905–06, to cover men in excess of establishment at the beginning of the year. The real reduction of establishments is thus 7,200 men, as explained at page 4 of the Estimates.

The Infantry battalions at home stand in the establishment at 750 rank and file, but for reasons which are stated further on, the Army Council consider it is permissible to make a considerable reduction in their strength below that figure. It is, however, never possible to make large reductions suddenly, and the process must, therefore, be distributed throughout the whole of the year. The Garrison battalions, recruiting for which has for some time been stopped, will also be allowed to waste gradually. The reduction in the strength of the Army at the end of the year, including the absorption of a large number of men expected to be supernumerary to the present establishment on 31st March, 1905, will represent a diminution of about 17,000 men, or the equivalent of twenty battalions of Infantry. This large reduction of the personnel of the Army is justified in view of the peculiar circumstances of the year. Owing to the fact that the first of the three years' men have begun to pass into the Reserve, and that the ordinary contingent of seven years' men is also passing into the Reserve, there will be a very large increase in the Reserve during the coming year.

The Army Council, moreover, have decided that it is not desirable to retain in the ranks three years' men who are not likely to extend, and permission has been given to men with more than two years' service to pass into the Reserve. Already no less than 2,017 men serving under these conditions have availed themselves of this permission.

It will be observed, therefore, that while the number of men with the Colours will be diminished, the number in the Reserve will have correspondingly increased. The effect of the combined operation will be to reduce the strength of the Infantry battalions at the end of the year to 700. But the composition of these battalions will be much more satisfactory than that of the same battalions at the present time, as they will be, to a large extent, composed of men serving for nine years instead of men serving for three years, and, for the most part, unavailable for the purpose of drafting. The importance of this change will be realised by an examination of the figures which appear on page 14.

RE-ARRANGEMENT OF VOTES.

In accordance with the recommendation of Lord Esher's Committee and with the approval of the Committee of Public Accounts, 1904, the Votes for 1905–06 (other than those for Personnel and Miscellaneous Services) have been re-arranged so as to correspond with the administrative spheres of the several Members of the Army Council. The same principle has been carried a step further by forming the province of each Director into a separate Vote or section of a Vote. Certain other changes have also been found necessary.

Full information on these changes is given in a separate note printed at page iii. of the Estimates, and in the shape of footnotes to the several Votes.

An unavoidable effect of this re-arrangement is to disturb the continuity of the several Votes and subheads with those of earlier years. In order to facilitate comparison, the Abstract of Army Estimates has been printed in two forms; one, on page 9, comparing the several Votes for 1905–06 with those for 1904–05, re-arranged on the new plan, and the other, on page 9A, comparing the Votes for 1905–06, re-arranged on the old plan, with those for 1904–05 as voted in that year.

The Abstracts have also been arranged so as to show separately the provision made under Votes 8 and 9 for Re-armament of Horse and Field Artillery, respectively.

APPENDIX I.

COLONIAL GARRISONS.

The conclusions of the Committee of Imperial Defence and the revision of the requirements of the Admiralty for naval bases and coaling stations have made it possible to reduce certain Colonial garrisons. It has also been found possible to reduce the British force in Egypt. These measures give a welcome relief to the strain involved in keeping so large a portion of the Army abroad, and will have an important effect in reducing its cost. But owing to the fact that the strength of the Army as a whole can only be reduced gradually, and that the bringing away of troops and stores from stations abroad involves a considerable expenditure on transport, the full relief will not be felt in 1905–06.

The Dominion Government has offered to assume at an early date the entire responsibility for the garrisoning of Halifax (Nova Scotia) and Esquimalt, providing Canadian troops for the purpose and, until those troops are ready, paying the cost of the Imperial troops retained at those stations. The arrangements for this are not yet complete, but I have no doubt that a satisfactory conclusion will very soon be reached.

At the request of the British Representative in Egypt, the Government of Egypt has agreed to increase its contribution towards the cost of the British force in that country from 87,000*l.* to 100,000*l.* annually.

THE MILITIA.

The Militia Vote is taken at the same figure as for last year.

The condition of the Force remains unsatisfactory. The total strength, as compared with previous years, is as follows :—

1st January, 1905	90,915
1st January, 1904	88,282

There is a great variety in the numbers and quality of the units. The condition of some units, both of Infantry and Artillery, is very grave. In some cases it will be necessary to reduce such units. In others, the amalgamation of two or more units appears to be the only possible course.

A considerable portion of the Militia Artillery is redundant for defence purposes.

It is not possible to effect immediate or rapid reductions in this or any other branch of the Army, in view of the fact that all existing engagements must be respected. But it is hoped that during the coming year progress will be made in the direction of effecting some of the reductions which have been referred to.

The physical standard required of Militia recruits has been recently raised in order to check the enlistment of boys who are never likely to become effective soldiers.

A Bill enabling Militiamen to be enlisted for service abroad in time of war or national emergency has been introduced.

It is obvious that if the Militia is to be used for service abroad, it must undergo a longer period of training than at present, and must be provided with a larger number of trained Officers than it at present possesses.

When the reductions referred to above have taken place, it will be possible to give effect to the principal recommendations of the Duke of Norfolk's Commission, and to increase the length of active service, both on enlistment and at annual training.

APPENDIX I.

IMPERIAL YEOMANRY.

One regiment of Yeomanry, which has never been raised and is not now required, has been omitted from the establishment. Nearly all the existing regiments are either up to or nearly up to their establishment, and the net deficiency on the whole Force is only 827 all ranks. The strength of the Force on 1st January, 1905, was 25,217, as against 25,536 on 1st January, 1904. These numbers are highly satisfactory, in view of the fact that five years ago the strength was only 10,114 on an establishment of 11,891. It has been found possible to make some reduction in the total of the Vote, now that the raising of additional men has practically ceased.

VOLUNTEERS.

The Volunteer Vote is taken at the same figure as for last year.

The strength of the Volunteer Force has been well maintained. The numbers on the 1st January, 1905, were 245,359, as compared with 241,280 on 1st January, 1904.

It was feared that the camp regulations might interfere with the number of men availing themselves of the privilege of going into camp. These fears, however, have not been realised. Last year no less than 175,000 men went into camp for one or for two weeks.

The Volunteer Vote is, to a large extent, a vote in arrear, the Capitation Grants provided in the present Estimates being those earned in 1904–05, in which year the total number of Volunteers showed a slight increase. It is impossible, therefore, to introduce any large increase of grants to the present force without a great addition to the present or future Estimates.

The Report of the recent Royal Commission, however, has shown that changes are necessary in order to secure the higher standard of efficiency which is desired, and especially to relieve Officers of the expense which at present falls upon them. These changes must accordingly be made, but they can only be effected as money becomes available.

The Force is, at present, largely in excess of mobilisation requirements, and the present regulations encourage Commanding Officers to take men for financial reasons, rather than with a view to efficiency. It is, therefore, proposed to reduce the surplus numbers gradually, and to apply the money thus saved to carrying out the necessary changes. The establishment will, accordingly, be reduced during the year to 230,000, a reduction of approximately 5 per cent. on the present strength.

It is not, however, proposed to limit the reduction of the Force to 15,359, the difference between the existing strength and the proposed establishment. On the contrary, it is desirable that the strength should be reduced to 200,000, at which figure the Force will still be in excess of the requirements of the General Staff.

This reduction of establishment will be effected partly by maintaining and, if necessary, raising the new physical standard for recruits recently laid down; partly by the abolition of outlying and inefficient companies; and partly by the amalgamation of two or more weak units to form one strong battalion. Until these changes have been worked out in detail, the establishments for individual corps shown in the Estimates must be considered provisional.

It is proposed to grant capitation allowances at an increased cost of about 15,000*l.* to enable corps to take their men to suitable grounds for field training. These will be payable in arrear, out of the savings to be effected in the Vote for 1906–07. An additional allowance of ammunition for heavy gun practice, to the value of 5,000*l.*, will also be issued.

In addition, it is calculated that a reduction of the Force to 200,000 would allow of the following changes :—

1. The rate of allowance in respect of all Volunteer Officers serving in camp for fourteen days to be raised to 14s. per diem.

2. An allowance at the rate of 5*l*. for a fortnight in camp, and half that amount for a week in camp, to be given to mounted Officers.

3. The camp allowance to men attending camp for fourteen days to be reduced to 4*s*. per diem, and the numbers of men allowed to attend to be increased from 20,000 to 60,000. The present camp allowance of 1*l*. and Capitation Grant of 35*s*. in respect of those Volunteers who go into camp for one week, to be maintained ; the Capitation Grants to Volunteers who do not go into camp to be reduced from 35*s*. to 20*s*.

4. Classes for the instruction of non-commissoned officers to be established.

5. Some additions to be made to Volunteer transport.

6. A Divisional Staff to be provided for one Division.

It must be clearly understood that these changes are contingent upon the reduction of numbers and, with the exception of field training and gun ammunition, cannot be carried out this year.

RE-ARMAMENT : HORSE AND FIELD ARTILLERY.

On the 30th June, 1904, I stated in the House that it was proposed to complete for India in the present year 21 batteries of the new guns ; that 54 batteries would be completed for the British Army in the next financial year, 1905–06 ; and that 76 batteries for the British Army would then remain to be completed in the financial year ending 31st March, 1907.

This programme has been proceeded with during the past year, and subject to any unforeseen contingency which may arise, the 126 guns and carriages and 387 wagons, which constitute the equipment of 21 batteries, will be completed at the end of the financial year, and will be despatched to India soon afterwards.

In July, 1905, an additional 15 batteries, or 90 guns with wagons and ammunition, will be ready.

By the 31st March, 907, 161 batteries, or 966 guns with wagons, ammunition, and spare parts will be completed, leaving 14 batteries, or 84 guns, required for the reserve, to be supplied in the following year.

This is independent of 8 batteries, or 48 guns, which will be manufactured in India.

WORKS AND BUILDINGS.

The Works Vote shows an increase of 352,300*l*., due to the increase of 370,147*l*. in the charge for annuities created under the Barracks and Military Works Acts. The increase under this head in 1905–06 is to a certain extent abnormal, inasmuch as payment for five quarters' dividends on Exchequer Bonds issued under the Capital Expenditure (Money) Act, 1904, will come into 1905–06. Apart from this item the Vote would have shown a decrease of 17,847*l*.

In accordance with the recommendations of an earlier Committee, confirmed by Lord Esher's Committee on War Office Reconstitution, an expert civilian branch has been created under a Director of Barrack Construction, in the department of the Civil Member, for the special duty of the construction of barracks and similar buildings, particularly at home stations. The Vote has accordingly been divided into two sections, the charges and credits relating to the new branch being shown separately from those relating to services under the Master-General of the Ordnance.

A large proportion of the proposed expenditure on barracks is devoted to hospital and sanitary services, and to improvements tending to the greater comfort of the soldier generally.

ORDNANCE FACTORIES VOTE.

For six years past, beginning with the Supplementary Estimate in 1899–1900, the House has been asked to vote substantive votes for the Ordnance Factories. To a great extent this was necessary so as to bring the buildings and plant of the factories up to date, in accordance with the recommendations of the Mowatt Committee. It was also desired to place them in a position to cope in future with the strain of a great war.

The system of substantive votes is not, however, one which is received with favour by the House, and I am glad to have been able to dispense altogether with such a vote for the year 1905–06.

The Ordnance Factories Vote is accordingly reduced to its normal token amount of 100*l*.

REORGANISATION.

The circumstances of the year with regard to the War Office and the Army have been special, and it therefore seems desirable to give a somewhat detailed account of the changes which have actually taken place, of those which it has not yet been possible to carry into effect, and of new proposals which will be made with the object of giving effect to the promises given to Parliament.

Two important branches of work have engaged the attention of the Army Council:—

(*a*.) The recommendations of the Esher Committee, which were adopted by the Government, and which necessitated the reorganisation of the War Office itself and of the various Commands in the United Kingdom.

(*b*.) The condition of the Army and the policy adopted by the Government, on the recommendation of the Committee of Imperial Defence, necessitated the reorganisation of the Army.

The first task was commenced as soon as the Report of the Esher Committee had been adopted. No progress could be made with the second until the proposals made by me on behalf of the Government had been explained in both Houses of Parliament; in other words, until the commencement of the month of August. The time, therefore, available for this important work has been limited to a period of seven months.

THE REORGANISATION OF THE WAR OFFICE.

Lord Esher's Committee.

The first step taken in this direction was the appointment by the Prime Minister, on the 18th November, 1903, of Lord Esher's Committee. The first Part of the Report of the Committee was completed and presented on the 11th January.

It recommended (1) the establishment of the Committee of Imperial Defence; (2) the abolition of the office of Commander-in-Chief, and the creation of the Army Council; (3) the appointment of an Inspector-General of the Forces.

The two latter recommendations fell within the sphere of my office, and upon the adoption of this part of the Report of the Committee by the Cabinet, I took immediate steps to carry them into effect.

APPENDIX I.

FORMATION OF THE ARMY COUNCIL.

No time was lost in appointing the members of the Army Council, but two of them being absent from the country some time necessarily elapsed before a full meeting of the Council could be held. Such a meeting was, however, actually held upon the 14th March, 1904.

THE INSPECTOR-GENERAL OF THE FORCES.

The appointment of an Inspector-General of the Forces, and the allocation of his functions was at once proceeded with, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught, who was appointed to this very responsible position, entered upon his duties on the 7th May, 1904.

APPOINTMENT OF "DIRECTORS."

Concurrently with the appointment of the members of the Army Council the whole of the Directors considered necessary by the Esher Committee were selected, their duties and salaries fixed, and Treasury approval obtained when necessary.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

It was also necessary, in order to conform to the recommendations of the Committee, to remodel the Finance Department of the Army, both inside and outside the War Office. As explained in detail (page 10) this has been done.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE.

It will be obvious that the institution of a wholly new form of administration involved very close attention, as it was necessary to create a procedure which, while adapted to the peculiar needs of the Army, should, in its general features resemble that of the Board of Admiralty, on the model of which the Army Council was founded. The creation of a new procedure, and the acquiescence of all concerned in its adoption, may now be regarded as satisfactorily accomplished; and though much still remains to be done, and though the rules which have been laid down require to be tested by practice, I believe that the Council is now working on a sound basis, and on principles which are likely to be accepted by those who succeed the present members.

SUMMARY.

Some measure of the work which had to be performed is furnished by the following particulars of the appointments which have had to be made :—

1. The Secretary of State was appointed, and the functions attaching to his office were varied by the terms of the Letters Patent passed under the Great Seal on the 6th February, 1904.

2. Two Civilian Members, the Under Secretary of State for War and the Parliamentary Secretary, were appointed Civil Member of the Council and Financial Member of the Council, respectively, and their administrative functions defined.

3. Four Military Members of the Council were appointed—the Chief of the General Staff, the Adjutant-General to the Forces, the Quartermaster-General to the Forces, and the Master-General of the Ordnance—having assigned to them the functions laid down in the Report of the Esher Committee.

4. The Permanent Under Secretary was appointed Secretary of the War Office and Secretary to the Army Council.

5. The Inspector-General of the Forces was appointed, his Staff determined, and his functions defined by Order in Council.

6. Five Inspectors for Cavalry, Horse and Field Artillery, Garrison Artillery, Royal Engineers, and Equipment and Stores respectively, were appointed to act under the Inspector-General.

7. A Director of Army Finance was appointed with two Assistants, one for Finance and one for Accounts.

8. A Director of Military Operations, a Director of Staff Duties, and a Director of Military Training, were appointed to assist the Chief of the General Staff.

9. A Director of Recruiting and Organisation, a Director of Personal Services, and a Director of Auxiliary Forces, were appointed to assist the Adjutant-General.

10. Directors of Transports and Remounts, of Movements and Quarterings, of Supplies and Clothing, and of Equipment and Ordnance Stores, were appointed to assist the Quartermaster-General.

11. The Master-General of the Ordnance received as his assistants a Director of Artillery and a Director of Fortifications and Works.

12. A Director of Barrack Construction was also appointed to assist the Civil Member of the Army Council.

Carrying out of the Report of the Esher Committee.

The Army Council having been appointed, its first duty was to make a careful examination of the Report of Lord Esher's Committee, with a view to giving practical effect to such portions of it as had not already been acted upon. The task was one of considerable difficulty, and involved close attention. The whole report was gone through in the first instance by a Committee, and subsequently at several meetings of the Council itself.

On the 6th January, 1905, a Special Army Order was issued dividing the United Kingdom into seven "Commands," detailing the functions of General Officers Commanding in these areas, and determining the duties of the General Staff and the Administrative Staff in a Command.

This Army Order—which carries into effect throughout the Army the system of decentralisation recommended by the Committee—represents the work of the Army Council and of the War Office Staff through many months of close application, and I believe that the changes have been carried into effect with a minimum of friction and inconvenience.

The General Staff.

The General Staff has been created in accordance with the recommendations of the War Office Reconstitution Committee.

Its duties have been defined in the following terms:—

1. The Military Defence of the Empire.
2. Collection of Military Intelligence.
3. Supervision of the training of the Military Forces, and their use in War.
4. War Organisation.
5. Education of Officers.
6. Selection and Admisistration of the General Staff.
7. Telegraphs and Signalling.

To ensure that these duties are systematically carried out, they have been apportioned to three Directorates under the supervision of the Chief of the General Staff—

1. The Directorate of Military Operations.
2. The Directorate of Staff Duties.
3. The Directorate of Military Training.

The first of these is practically the old Intelligence Department with the important difference that mobilisation, which formed part of the work for which the old department was responsible, has now been assigned partly to the Adjutant-General's Branch and partly to that of the Chief of the General Staff.

During the past year the establishment of this Directorate has been increased by fifteen Officers, thus enabling it to materially increase its radius of action.

The area covered by the work of the Directorate is extensive, and among its most important functions are :—

(*a.*) The preparation of schemes of defence and offence.
(*b.*) The collection and distribution of information of military interest.
(*c.*) The strategical distribution of the land forces.
(*d.*) The preparation of maps and collection of topographical material.

The Directorate of Staff Duties is a new department, to which have been entrusted many subjects which were formerly dealt with by the Director of Military Education or the Military Secretary. The chief duties for which this department is responsible comprise—

(*a.*) Organisation of and appointments to the General Staff.
(*b.*) The supervision of the Staff College and Cadet Colleges.
(*c.*) Details of examinations for promotion.
(*d.*) The preparation and publication of works bearing on military operations.

A further section has still to be established under this Directorate to deal with military history.

The Directorate of Military Training supervises, to a considerable extent, work which previously came under the hand of the Adjutant-General; but beyond this it is both in scope and area of action largely a new organisation.

Its various branches deal with the following matters :—

1. War organisation and establishment.
2. Plans for concentration and Home Defence.
3. Manœuvres.
4. Training of all arms.
5. Supervision of schools of instruction for war training.

I consider it, however, of great importance that the permanent appointments to the Staff should not be made with undue haste. If the General Staff is to fulfil the expectations which I entertain of it, its members must be carefully selected, and much harm will be done if the posts are irrevocably filled up until experience has been obtained with respect to the working of the system, and the qualifications required from the Officers selected.

APPENDIX I.

THE FINANCE DEPARTMENT.

The main results of the recommendations of the War Office Reconstitution Committee, so far as they affected the personnel of the Financial side of the War Office, were the abolition of the posts of Accountant-General, of Deputy Accountant-General, and of four Assistant Accountants-General. The posts of Director and Assistant Director of Contracts also were abolished. On the other hand, the posts of Director of Finance with two Assistants, one for Finance and one for Accounts, were created.

In regard to work, the recommendations entailed great and far-reaching changes.

The administration of contracts for the provision of Supplies and Stores has had to be transferred from the Civil to the Military Members of Council, a clearly defined amount of review and control being retained by the Financial Member.

For the financial service of the Army in the field, as well as in peace, an entirely new department has had to be created by the amalgamation of the existing Military Pay Department with some of the Civil Headquarter Finance branches.

A system of decentralised accounting has had to be created, carrying with it the redistribution and decentralisation of work and staff to military districts throughout the Empire.

Most of the Army Votes have had to be entirely remodelled in a form acceptable alike to the Treasury and to Parliament.

In all these changes the financial supremacy of Parliament has had to be retained intact whilst the freedom from financial restraint of Military Members and Commanders-in-Chief has had to be largely increased.

Regulations acceptable alike to the Army and to the Treasury have had to be drafted and introduced.

A standing Army Finance Committee to watch expenditure has had to be constituted, and a detailed and entirely new re-arrangement of staff and work both for finance and for accounting has had to be carried into effect.

The Order in Council investing the Director of Army Finance with authority to act was not promulgated till August, 1904, and the last of the changes above alluded to received Treasury sanction before the end of that year. In other words, the whole of the reforms required have been effected in six months, without extraneous aid of any sort, without friction and without any interruption of current work, and this at a time when the Army system was being entirely recast.

New Army Accounts Branch.

The experience of the South African War has shown the necessity of having skilled financial officials and accountants in touch with the military authorities ordering expenditure, even apart from the desirability, now well recognised, of decentralising detailed work from the War Office and focussing it in districts under the responsible local authorities. The Army Accounts Branch has been formed, by amalgamation of the existing members of the Army Pay Department with members of the Civil Staff of the War Office, in order to meet these requirements. The reorganisation will ultimately result in a saving of at least 40,000*l*. per annum in pay and pensions.

Under this scheme each General in charge of the administration of a home command will have on his staff an officer designated the Chief Accountant, who will assist him with advice upon financial business, including the compilation of estimates and the watching of expenditure; who will control the payment of troops stationed within the command, and of pensioners and reservists localised there; and who will also, as the representative of the statutory accounting officer, audit the accounts both of money and of stores rendered in the command. A similar organisation, with such modifications as circumstances require, will be provided at stations abroad, and will form part of the arrangements for a field army or military expedition. As a result, the expenditure of public money will be subjected to a "live" control, accounts will be kept in order and expeditiously examined, doubtful cases will be investigated promptly and on the spot, and the occurrence of disputes and difficulties long after the close of active service will be obviated or minimised.

As part of this system the accounts of soldiers will be compiled by the Accounts Branch, thus relieving company officers of much work foreign to their proper military duties, under a system which has passed a full trial with general approbation. The extra staff required for this work will be found by improvements of organisation which enable a large amount of reduplicated examination of accounts to be discontinued. Hitherto accounts for pay, etc., have been examined in the first instance by Paymasters, and afterwards re-examined in a proportion of cases by the War Office. This re-examination was necessary, because the Paymaster was himself an officer holding and disbursing the cash concerned; and various attempts to reduce the cost of the re-examination did not lead to a diminution of staff, or of its cost, commensurate to the amount of the check which was foregone. In particular the supervising staff for a test examination remained almost as costly as for a full examination.

Under the new plan the Accountants for districts or groups of troops at home will be relieved of the charge of cash, which will be held by a separate cashier at the headquarters of each district, and will examine finally the accounts rendered to them, subject to inspection from the office of the Chief Accountants. This arrangement appears to solve the difficulty as to simplification of audit work which has engaged attention for many years.

Among the incidental advantages of the new system it may be mentioned that an opportunity will be given for utilising the services of those members of the Army Pay Department who may show ability above the average upon financial work of a superior class to the somewhat routine duties which they have hitherto performed; and that civilians merged in, or entering the new department, will have the opportunity of adding to their training in general financial principles, experience at first-hand in the details of military financial work and procedure. As the present Army Pay Corps, composed of serving soldiers, dies out, facilities will occur for the employment of ex-soldiers as well as civilians upon the work of the new branch, for some of which—such as the compilation and examination of pay lists—their experience while serving as soldiers qualifies them.

The most important features of the new shemce are that—

(*a.*) It supplies the Generals administering the expenditure of commands with trained financial advisers, co-ordinating the finance of the commands and enabling expenditure to be watched.

(*b.*) It enables financial criticism to be applied with knowledge of local circumstances.

(*c.*) It avoids a large amount of detailed correspondence with the War Office.

(*d.*) It enables accounts to be examined and passed promptly.

(*e.*) It provides an organisation applicable to war, and sufficiently versed in higher financial principles to deal with new financial conditions arising during war. It is probable that such an organisation during the South African War would have saved the public some millions of money.

APPENDIX 1.

THE REORGANISATION OF THE ARMY.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES.

While the reorganisation of the War Office has closely occupied the attention of the Army Council, the even more important question of the reorganisation of the Army has not been neglected.

In the course of debate last year, I stated the reasons which led me to believe that such reorganisation was absolutely essential. Everything that I learnt during the past year has confirmed my belief in the correctness of the view I then expressed.

There were many general reasons for making a change, among which the most important was the new policy announced by the Prime Minister, and which depended upon the acceptance of the proposition that *provided the Navy is efficient, a successful invasion of this country upon a large scale need not be contemplated.* The development of this doctrine necessarily led to a number of subsidiary conclusions, all of which were embodied in the proposals which I have from time to time submitted to the House.

THE URGENCY OF THE CASE.

Apart, however, from the general principles which dictated the change, the actual condition of the Infantry battalions made some action absolutely imperative. I have explained the nature of the difficulty in some detail on page 4, but I desire to impress upon the House the fact that the need for instant and effective measures calculated to restore the efficiency of the Infantry has necessarily and rightly dominated all other considerations during the past few months.

On the 14th July, 1904, I explained to the House the nature of the proposals for the reorganisation of the Army, which had received the sanction of the Government.

The proposals were discussed in the House of Lords on the 29th July, and it was not, therefore, until August that any action became possible.

Since that date much has been accomplished. Recruiting for the Garrison Regiment has been stopped, and arrangements have been made for hastening the reduction of these battalions by facilitating the discharge of a large number of men prior to the completion of their engagements.

It must be remembered, however, that all the men in the Garrison Regiment are serving on engagements which cannot be cancelled, save by consent. It is believed that satisfactory arrangements have been made in South Africa, whereby many of the men at present serving in the Garrison battalions will be enabled and encouraged to remain in the country on discharge.

SHORT-SERVICE ENLISTMENT STOPPED.

On the 20th October, 1904, short-service enlistment for the Infantry was stopped, and enlistment for 9 years' Colour service was substituted.

The 3-years' enlistment was a measure adopted during the war, and it undoubtedly proved of service in enabling the War Office to obtain in a very short time a large accession of recruits and to strengthen the Reserve rapidly ; but the system is not one suited to ordinary circumstances. It is an essential part of the system that 75 per cent. of the men enlisting for 3 years should extend their Colour service. Unless the average extensions reaches this figure, the power of the battalions at home to find foreign drafts is, *pro tanto*, diminished. As a matter of fact, the anticipations originally formed have not been verified, and the extensions have fallen far short of the necessary figure.

This failure to extend has produced a very serious state of affairs in the Infantry regiments. During the trooping season it was necessary to send to India and the Colonies thousands of men who had only ten months to serve. If no change had been made, the condition of affairs would have been much worse during the coming year.

APPENDIX I.

The following Tables (A and B) show the effect of the failure of the men to extend in some of the battalions at Home and in the Colonies. Table C shows the condition of 12 battalions of Infantry at home in January, 1905 :—

TABLE A.

Table showing the conditions of battalions at Home due to the failure of men to extend.

EXAMPLES of battalions at Home.

——	Total strength.	Under 2 years' service.	Per cent.	On 3 years' engagement.	Per cent.	Under 20.	Per cent.
A	927	623	67	652	70	394	42
B	900	613	68	642	71	378	42
C	1,023	700	68	775	75	454	44
D	544	401	73	377	69	214	39
E	786	484	61	507	64	286	36
*F	1,006	760	75	773	76	418	41
G	752	579	77	558	74	417	55
H	853	533	62	597	70	458	53

* 605 under one year.

TABLE B.

Table showing the condition of battalions in the Colonies due to the failure of men to extend.

EXAMPLES of battalions in the Colonies.

——	Total strength.	Under 2 years' service.	Per cent.	On 3 years' engagement.	Per cent.	Under 20.	Per cent.
In South Africa— I	842 900	391 417	46 46	492 488	58 54	233 177	27 19
At Malta— J	1,095 1,215	721 828	65 68	662 897	60 73	424 526	38 43
At Gibraltar— K	975	520	53	578	59	292	30
At Bermuda— L	823	389	47	377	45	168	20

TABLE C.

Table showing the number of men required for drafts, and the number available for drafts, respectively, in the cases of 12 Infantry battalions at home in January, 1905.

——	Draft required.	Number available under usual regulations.
M	183	83
N	176	86
O	172	44
P	197	50
Q	212	60
R	159	63
S	97	111
T	145	55
U	248	48
V	217	15
W	263	25
X	483	78
	2,552 —	718 = 1,834

In view of these facts, and of the certainty that unless some change were made in the system of enlistment, the evil would reach proportions which would render the finding of drafts absolutely impossible, it became necessary to take immediate action. The Army Council therefore decided to close short-service recruiting for the Infantry of the Line, and to substitute, as a temporary measure, only enlistment for 9 years with the Colours and 3 years in the Reserve, under the existing conditions of pay.

The step was a bold one, and much doubt was expressed as to whether the necessary recruits would be obtained. I, however, entertained no doubt on this point, and fortunately my expectations have been fully justified. Between 1st November, 1904, and 1st March, 1905, no less than 9,720 recruits were enlisted for the Infantry on a 9 years' engagement. I have every reason to hope that by the end of the next financial year at least 30,000 additional long-service men will be found in the ranks of the Infantry battalions at home, and the drafting difficulty which, at one time, seemed likely to prove fatal to the Army, will have been nearly, though not altogether, removed.

THE POSTPONEMENT OF TWO YEARS' ENLISTMENTS.

As the House is aware, it has been the intention of the Army Council to open short service enlistment for 2 years, concurrently with the long-service enlistment. As the year went on, however, and extensions did not increase, it became evident that until the balance of the Army was approximately restored, and a due proportion of long-service men enlisted, it would be absolutely impossible, with any regard to the safety of the country, to open the short-service recruiting. For this reason it has been decided by the Army Council to postpone the creation of short-service battalions. It is obvious that such battalions cannot be created, as long as no short-service recruits are enlisted, and for the reasons given above it is not, and will not for some time be safe, to enlist any but long-service men.

It should be clearly understood, however, that while short-service recruiting is thus postponed, it must inevitably be resorted to as soon as long-service recruiting fails to give us a proper number of men, and as soon as the Army Reserve shows signs of depletion.

I need hardly say that I greatly regret it has been found necessary to consent to the postponement of short-service enlistment, but under existing circumstances no other course was open.

Meanwhile, until short-service enlistment is again adopted, those parts of the proposal which I submitted to the House last year, and which are dependent upon the creation of short-service battalions, must necessarily be in abeyance. Among them are—

(*a.*) The addition of Reserve Officers for short-service battalions.

(*b.*) The creation of 19 additional territorial units.

(*c.*) The territorialising of the short-service battalions.

(*d.*) The creation of a Striking Force.*

After describing in this digression what the Army Council have, by force of circumstances, been compelled to leave undone, I return to what they have been able to accomplish.

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* Until the Infantry at home have a sufficient number of long-service men it is useless to organise a Striking Force. To keep battalions up to a strength of 900 men for the purpose of taking part in a foreign expedition is useless and extravagant, so long as 800 out of the 900 are boys, unfitted by age or length of service for fighting at all. In the cavalry, which are now practically enlisted for long-service, a small Striking Force has already been formed.

APPENDIX I.

THE CAVALRY.

The question of the Cavalry has been very carefully gone into, and a scheme, which, I believe, is calculated to effect a very great improvement in the efficiency of that arm, has been drawn up. This scheme provides for the enlistment of all Cavalrymen at the age of 19 and 19½, and for an 8 years' Colour service. It will do away with the necessity for linking of Cavalry regiments for purposes of drafting, which has proved so great a disadvantage in the past, and will avoid the necessity for transferring men from one regiment to another, a most undesirable and unpopular practice. A small sum will be required to give effect to this valuable reform, and the amount is included in the Estimates.

The following are the main features of the scheme.

1. A uniform establishment of three strong squadrons with a total strength of 565 of all ranks will constitute the normal strength of all Cavalry regiments serving at home.
2. Two depots, one for Dragoons and Lancers, the other for Hussars, will take the place of the present 4th or Reserve squadrons of regiments.
3. All recruits will be trained at these depots, their term of service there before transfer to their regiments being 3 months for those serving in regiments at Home, and 6 months for those going to India.
4. The minimum of age on enlistment will be 19 years.
   Term of service—8 years with the Colours, 4 years with the Reserve.
5. On mobilisation all Reservists will join at their depot, be equipped there, and sent to join their regiments.

Further recommendations deal with the formation of a Regimental Reserve of Officers, and with the provision of a Striking Force of three Cavalry regiments.

THE GARRISON ARTILLERY.

The enlistment for the Garrison Artillery has followed that of the Infantry, and 9 years' Colour service has been substituted for 3 years. This is absolutely essential in a force such as the Garrison Artillery, of which the larger proportion is serving abroad. Under the old system, in order to supply drafts, it was necessary that 100 per cent. of the men should extend.

THE ROYAL ENGINEERS.

The question of the Royal Engineers has been examined by a Committee, and recommendations have been made which have been approved by the Army Council, and which will allow of the gradual reduction of the number of Officers in the Royal Engineers on the British establishment by 107. It is hoped to transfer 45 of these Officers to increase the Indian establishment, in the course of the year. I am not, however, satisfied that this is the whole of the economy that can be effected in connection with the Royal Engineers.

THE GUARDS.

The condition of the Brigade of Guards has been such, during the last 12 months, as to cause anxiety, both in regard to the establishment of Officers and the numbers of the rank and file.

The deficiency in the junior rank of Officers is a grave matter and one which has called for urgent remedy.

A scheme has been formulated to meet the emergency, which it is hoped will bring immediate relief, and result eventually in an adequate supply of Officers with the necessary qualifications; while at the same time no detriment will be caused to Officers of other branches of the Service who obtain Commissions under existing conditions.

The improvement in the recruiting for the Guards has been so marked and so well maintained, since the inauguration of enlistment for 9 years' Colour service for the Infantry of the Line, that the Brigade is almost up to its proper strength.

APPENDIX I

CO-OPERATION WITH THE NAVY.

JOINT MANŒUVRES.

The principles laid down by the Committee of Defence have been enforced, and every effort has been made to render the co-operation between the Army and Navy closer than before. In pursuance of this object, joint Naval and Military Manœuvres were instituted for the first time. A force of all arms was transported by sea from Southampton to the coast of Essex, under the convoy of a squadron of H.M. ships, and a landing on the coast was effected with the aid of the Navy. The operations proved very instructive, and the results have been embodied in a full report. In order that full advantage may be taken of the lessons afforded by the manœvures, a joint Military and Naval Committee has been appointed to study the various problems which arose in connection with the landing and embarkation.

INTERCHANGE OF OFFICERS.

An interchange of Officers between the two Services has taken place. Selected Naval Officers have been permitted by the Admiralty to attend the lectures at the Staff College, while two Officers of the Army have in their turn attended the War Course at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. It is believed that this interchange will be of value to both Services, and will lead to further developments in the same direction.

SUBMARINE MINES.

In November, 1903, a proposal was made to the Admiralty to the effect that the War Office should hand over to the Navy the whole of the submarine mines and their appliances in the naval ports ; that similar transfers should take place in naval ports abroad, when a sufficient number of submarine boats was available to protect passages now closed by submarine mines, and that the submarine defences in the home ports other than naval ports, should be abandoned by the Army as soon as the Admiralty could supply an alternative defence.

These suggestions have been discussed by the Committee of Imperial Defence, and the Admiralty has now agreed to adopt the course proposed. The transfer in the nava ports has already taken place, the submarine mines, launches, and plant generally having been handed over to the Navy.

At the request of the Navy, however, the whole of the gun defences and electric search-lights are still retained by the Army.

EXCHANGES BETWEEN WAR OFFICE AND ADMIRALTY.

In exchange for the submarine mining launches and plant received from the Army, the Navy have undertaken to place a large number of guns and ammunition, rendered available by the laying up of obsolete ships, at the disposal of the Army. A considerable number of these guns will be of value for purposes of defence and practice.

H. O. ARNOLD-FORSTER.

10.3.05.

APPENDIX II.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CXLIII.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Congested Districts (Scotland) [H.L.]	*Marquess of Linlithgow*	Bill withdrawn 20th March (398)
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1)		All stages 30th March (1693)
*Married Women's Property Act (1882) Amendment [H L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee, Report 21st March (599) Read 3^a and passed 30th March (1692)
Merchant Shipping Act (1894) Amendment [H.L.]	*Lord Muskerry*	Read 1^a 23rd March (923)
Merchant Shipping (Aliens) [H.L.]	*Lord Muskerry*	Read 1^a 27th March (1142)
*Military Manœuvres [H.L.]	*Earl of Donoughmore*	Read 3^a and passed 17th March (327)
*Naval Prize [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee, Report 21st March (599) Read 3^a and passed 30th March (1692)
Newcastle Chapter Amendment [H.L.]	*Lord Bishop of St. Albans*	Read 3^a and passed 21st March (587)
Patent Designs and Trade Marks (Registration of Patent Agents) [H.L.]	*Lord Coleridge*	Read 1^a 23rd March (923)
*Prevention of Corruption [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee, Report 21st March (587) Read 3^a and passed 30th March (1691)
*Prize Courts [H.L.]	*Lord Chancellor*	Committee, Report 21st March (599) Read 3^a and passed 30th March (1692)
Public Health Acts Amendment [H.L.]	*Lord Hylton*	Read 1^a 30th March (1650)
*Service of Militiamen [H.L.]	*Earl of Donoughmore*	Read 2^a 30th March (1651)

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS—*continued.*

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Street Betting [H.L.]	*Lord Davey*	Report 16th March (159) Read 3ª and passed 27th March (1142)
*Whale Fisheries (Scotland) [H.L.]	*Marquess of Linlithgow*	Read 2ª 20th March (420) Committee, Report 24th March (1073) Read 3ª and passed 28th March (1314)
*Workmen's Compensation [H.L.]	*Lord Belper*	Read 1ª 17th March (321)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Aged Pensioners	*Mr. Goulding*	Read 1° 16th March (216)
Allotments (London)	*Mr. Benn*	Read 1° 16th March (479)
*Army (Annual)	*Mr. Secretary Arnold Forster*	Read 1° 30th March (1843)
*Charitable Loan Societies (Ireland)	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	Read 1° 15th March (47)
Closing of Licensed Premises (St. Patrick's Day) (Ireland)	*Mr. O'Mara*	Read 1° 22nd March (807)
Coal Mines (Employment)	*Mr. Jacoby*	Read 2° 17th March (336)
Compulsory Vaccination	*Mr. Broadhurst*	Read 1° 17th March (394)
Congested Districts (Scotland)	*The Lord Advocate*	Read 1° 30th March (1741)
*Consolidated Fund (No. 1)	*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*	Read 1° 23rd March (1065) Read 2° 27th March (1219) (1277) Committee, Report 28th March (1391) Read 3° and passed 30th March (1742)
*Crown Lands	*Mr. Victor Cavendish*	Read 1° 23rd March (978)
Dogs' (Protection)	*Mr. Ellis Griffith*	Read 1° 17th March (395)
Education (Provision of Meals)	*Mr. Arthur Henderson*	Read 1° 29th March (1543)
Elementary Education (Feeding of Children)	*Mr. Hay*	Read 1° 27th March (1307)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*False Statements (Companies)	*Mr. Attorney-General*	Read 1° 28th March (1390)
Home Industries	*Colonel Denny*	Read 1° 16th March (216)
Housing of the Working Classes	*Mr. Nannetti*	Read 1° 21st March (668)
Infant Life Protection Act (1897) Amendment	*Mr. Spear*	Read 1° 28th March (1390)
Isle of Thanet Licensing	*Mr. Marks*	Read 1° 22nd March (807)
Leaseholders (Purchase of Fee Simple)	*Mr. Kearley*	Read 1° 20th March (478)
Local Authorities (Taxation and Purchase of Land)	*Dr. Macnamara*	Read 1° 27th March (1219)
Local Government Act (1888) Amendment	*Mr. Spear*	Read 1° 28th March (1390)
*Marine Insurance	*Mr. Attorney-General*	Second Reading (adjourned) 30th March (1843)
*Merchant Shipping (Scottish Trawlers)	*The Lord Advocate*	Read 1° 30th March (1741)
Nurses and Private Nursing Homes (Registration)	*Mr. Hay*	Read 1° 20th March (583)
Places of Worship (Enfranchisement)	*Mr. Samuel Evans*	Read 1° 24th March (1139)
Places of Worship (Sites)	*Mr. Herbert Lewis*	Read 1° 21st March (668)
Public Libraries	*Mr. Tennant*	Read 1° 23rd March (978)
Public Roads (Ireland)	*Mr. O'Dowd*	Read 1° 22nd March (807)
*Relief of Distress (Ireland)	*Mr. Long*	Read 1° 28th March (1390)
*Sale of Butter	*Mr. Fellowes*	Read 1° 28th March (1391)
Small Holdings	*Mr. Channing*	Second Reading (adjourned) 24th March (1127)
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Town Tenants (Ireland)	*Mr. Patrick O'Brien*	Read 2° 24th March (1082)
Trade Marks	*Mr. Moulton*	Read 2° 20th March (581)
Trust Investment	*Sir Albert Rollit*	Read 1° 17th March (393)
Vaccination (No. 2)	*Mr. Broadhurst*	Read 1° 17th March (394)

APPENDIX III.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1905.

List of Rules, Orders, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

In Continuation of List given in preceding Volume.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
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[AUTHORISED EDITION].

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Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that Stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

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President of the Board of Education
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